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Presbyterian Church in the
U.S.A. Synod of New York.
Minutes of the ... annual
session of the Synod of New

1882-1896

MINUTES

OF THE

THIRD ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

SYNOD OF NEW YORK,

HELD IN THE CITY OF BUFFALO,

OCTOBER 21-24, A. D. 1884.

WITH AN APPENDIX.

PUBLISHED BY ORDER OF THE SYNOD, UNDER THE DIRECTION
OF THE STATED CLERK.

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1884.

THE OFFICERS OF THE SYNOD.

MODERATOR.

REV. JOHN McCLELLAN HOLMES, D. D., Albany.

STATED CLERK.

REV. T. RALSTON SMITH, D. D., 630 Seventh St., Buffalo.

PERMANENT CLERK.

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THE SYNOD OF NEW YORK

A. D. 1884.

THE SYNOD OF NEW YORK met, agreeably to appointment, in the NORTH CHURCH, BUFFALO, on Tuesday, the 21st day of October, A. D. 1884, at half-past seven o'clock P. M. The last Moderator, the Rev. JAMES McLEOD, D. D., having become a member of another Synod, the sessions were opened, at the request of the Committee of Arrangements, with a sermon by the Rev. CHARLES WOOD, of the Presbytery of Albany, on Exodus xxxiii: 18, "I beseech thee, show me thy glory."

After the sermon the Synod was organized for business with prayer.

The Committee of Enrollment presented its report, and the following Ministers and Ruling Elders were recognized as duly appointed delegates from the Presbyteries, and their names were entered on

THE ROLL OF THE SYNOD.

I. PRESBYTERY OF ALBANY.

Ministers.

James N. Crocker,
John McC. Holmes, D. D.,
Alexander Rankin,
Alphonso R. Olney,
Timothy G. Darling, D. D.,
Charles Wood.
John D. Counterline.
Isaac O. Rankin.

Ruling Elders.

Edward P. Durant.
Samuel N. Bacon.
Arthur M. Peck.
Edward H. Lyon.
Robert Miller (2).

II. PRESBYTERY OF BINGHAMTON.

Ministers.

Stephen G. Hopkins,
John G. Blue,

Ruling Elders.

Henry F. Benton.
Barth. G. McCabe, M. D.

III. PRESBYTERY OF BOSTON.

Robert D. Sproull,

John Gilchrist, (2).

IV. PRESBYTERY OF BROOKLYN.

George M. McCampbell, (2),
William J. Bridges,
Newell Woolsey Wells,

Fred C. Lounsbury.
William W. Wickes.
Aaron B. Barnes.
Henry L. Butler.

V. PRESBYTERY OF BUFFALO.

Frederick W. Brauns,
T. Ralston Smith, D. D.,
William Waith, (2),
Charles Simpson,
Rufus S. Green, D. D.,
William L. Austin,

Robert M. Mateer.
Charles B. Armstrong.
Charles G. Brundige.
Theodore S. Hubbard.
Melvin Montgomery, (2).
John D. Blakeley.

VI. PRESBYTERY OF CAYUGA.

Charles Hawley, D. D.,
Almon R. Hewitt,
Charles C. Hemenway,
William H. Allbright,

Gen. Charles F. Blood.
William A. Magee.
William H. Van Sickle.
Peter D. Hamilton.

VII. PRESBYTERY OF CHAMPLAIN.

Andrew M. Millar,
Peter J. H. Myers.

Charles S. Judd.

VIII. PRESBYTERY OF CHEMUNG.

Alexander O. Peloubet,
Charles C. Carr,

Warren Hurd.
Adna Ayers.

Ministers.

Augustus W. Cowles, D. D.,
Isaac Jennings, Jr.

Ruling Elders.

Alpha D. Griswold.

IX. PRESBYTERY OF CHILE.

Alexander M. Merwin.

X. PRESBYTERY OF COLUMBIA.

Benjamin Parsons,
J. Perry Beaver.

Dwight P. Hitchcock.

XI. PRESBYTERY OF GENESEE.

William Swan,
John C. Long,
Cassius H. Dibble,
William W. Totheroh,

Charles K. Ward.
Hon. James H. Loomis.
Hugh T. Brooks.
Henry P. Ellinwood.

XII. PRESBYTERY OF GENESEE VALLEY.

David McLeod,
William Ingleby.

William F. Wheeler, (2).

XIII. PRESBYTERY OF GENEVA.

J. Jermain Porter, D. D.,
Hugh W. Torrence,
Hiram H. Kellogg,
Lewis H. Morey,
Benjamin F. Millard,

Noah T. Clarke.
John Monroe.
Edwin D. Mead.
Baxter M. Chatham.
Herman D. Eastman.

XIV. PRESBYTERY OF HUDSON.

Slator C. Hepburn,
Fenwick T. Williams,
Henry A. Harlow,
David F. Bonner,
Robert E. Campbell,
Lee W. Beattie,

Samuel C. Van Vliet, Jr.
William Evans.
William Van Wagenen.
Albert A. Seymour, M. D.
Robert Smith.
James Hawkins.

XV. PRESBYTERY OF LONG ISLAND.

Ministers.

Samuel Whaley,
Epher Whitaker, D. D.
Hamilton B. Holmes.

Ruling Elders.

James H. Foster.

XVI. PRESBYTERY OF LYONS.

Luther A. Ostrander,
William H. Bates,
Allen Traver.

William H. Kent.
Henry M. Clark, (2).

XVII. PRESBYTERY OF NASSAU.

Adolphus E. Wanderer,
James C. Hume, (2).
Henry A. Porter.

Samuel F. Horsey.

XVIII. PRESBYTERY OF NEW YORK.

Erskine N. White, D. D.,
James D. Wilson, D. D.,
James S. Ramsay,
George L. Shearer, D. D., (2).
James H. Hoadley, (2).
Edward M. Deems.
Henry T. McEwen, (2).

Ezra M. Kingsley, (2).
Warner Van Norden, (2).
Sidney Whittemore.

XIX. PRESBYTERY OF NIAGARA.

Edwin Allen,
Erastus W. Twichell,
Orson I. White.

William F. Evans, (2).
William Glover, (2).

XX. PRESBYTERY OF NORTH RIVER.

Joseph K. Wight,
Irving Magee, D. D.,
James Otis Denniston,
Frederick B. Savage.
Theodore F. Burnham.
Augustus B. Prichard.

John Dales.
William D. Barnes.
Richard W. White.

XXI. PRESBYTERY OF OROOMIAH.

Ministers.

Henry U. Swinnerton, Ph. D.,
James H. Robinson,
Walter Fry,
Frank W. Townsend.

Ruling Elders.

James K. Penfield.
Robert Oliver.
Justus Van Deusen.

XXII. PRESBYTERY OF OTSEGO.

XXIII. PRESBYTERY OF ROCHESTER.

Joseph R. Page, D. D.,
Levi Parsons, D. D.,
Herman C. Riggs, D. D.,
Samuel A. Freeman,
William H. Millham,
Josiah E. Kittredge, D. D.,
Fisher Gutelius, (2),
Edward Bristol,

Theodore A. Drake.
Aaron P. Lawrence.
William Alling.
Hugh T. McNair.
Jeremiah B. Whitbeck.
J. Edwin Allen.
Loren J. Ames, M. D., (2).
Edgar Benedict, (2).

XXIV. PRESBYTERY OF ST. LAWRENCE.

Tryon Edwards, D. D.,
L. Merrill Miller, D. D.,
Thomas Dobbin,
George B. Stevens, Ph. D.

George R. Bell.
Gilbert B. Manley.
George B. Massey, (2).

XXV. PRESBYTERY OF SIAM.

XXVI. PRESBYTERY OF STEUBEN.

William A. Niles, D. D.,
Lawrence M. Stevens,
John S. Bacon, (2),

Samuel F. Woodworth, (2).
Andrew Sharp.
Orton O. Laine, (2).

XXVII. PRESBYTERY OF SYRACUSE.

David Torrey, D. D.,
Marcus N. Preston,
David Irving Biggar,
Charles F. Janes,
Alfred H. Fahnstock, (2),

D. Henry Gowing, (2).
Jason A. Merrill, (2).
John G. K. Truair.
Heman D. Fulton.
John B. McLean.

XXVIII. PRESBYTERY OF TROY.

Ministers.

Andrew J. Fennel, D. D.,
 Ninian B. Remick,
 William Reed,
 Robert Barbour,
 George Fairlee,

Ruling Elders.

Alonzo Alden.
 Horace B. Silliman.
 James F. Cowee.
 Eleazer A. Peck.
 Thomas Collins.

XXIX. PRESBYTERY OF UTICA.

Franklin A. Spencer,
 Andrew Cochran,
 Samuel Jessup,
 Dana W. Bigelow,
 Lewis R. Webber,
 Edwin H. Dickinson.

Theodore S. Sayre.
 Henry N. Porter, M. D.
 Myron M. Allen.
 Morris L. Lawrence.
 Samuel L. Smith, (2).

XXX. PRESBYTERY OF WESTCHESTER.

Carson W. Adams, D. D.,
 J. Aspinwall Hodge, D. D.,
 George W. F. Birch,
 Thornton M. Niven, D. D.,
 Henry A. Davenport.
 Willis W. Dowd.

Edward Wells.
 Stanton Cady.
 Sanford R. Knapp.
 Edmund S. Mills.

The Rev. JOHN McCLELLAN HOLMES, D. D., of the Presbytery of Albany, was elected Moderator, by a unanimous vote.

The Rev. J. ASPINWALL HODGE, D. D., of the Presbytery of Westchester, and the Rev. DANA W. BIGELOW, of the Presbytery of Utica, were chosen Temporary Clerks.

The Committee of Arrangements presented the following report, which was adopted:

The Committee recommends,

That the morning sessions begin at nine o'clock, and close at half-past twelve, the first half hour to be spent in devotional services, according to the Standing Rule;

That the afternoon sessions begin at half-past two o'clock, and close at five;

That the evening sessions begin at half-past seven o'clock, and continue during the pleasure of the Synod.

It is respectfully urged that there be no encroachment upon the hours of recess, on account of the distance at which many of the delegates are lodged, and the importance of consulting, in these arrangements, the convenience of families.

It is also recommended, that on Wednesday afternoon the session begin at three o'clock, and that the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper be administered at that hour, the Synod to resume business after the service.

The Committee farther recommends that the Board of Church Erection be assigned the hour of eleven, and the Board of Education the hour of half-past eleven on Wednesday morning; the Board of Aid for Colleges and Academies the hour of eleven, and the Board of Missions for Freedmen the hour of twelve on Thursday morning; that a popular meeting in the interest of Home Missions be held on Wednesday evening, and a similar meeting for Foreign Missions on Thursday evening.

Adjourned until to-morrow, at nine o'clock A. M.

Closed with prayer.

WEDNESDAY, October 22d, 9 o'clock A. M.

The Synod met, and spent the first half hour in devotional services.

The roll was called, and the names of the following delegates, having been duly reported to the Committee of Enrollment, were added :

Presbytery of Albany: Elder—Robert Miller.

Boston: Elder—John Gilchrist.

Brooklyn: Minister—George M. McCampbell.

Buffalo: Minister—William Waith; Elder—Melvin Montgomery.

Genesee Valley: Elder—William F. Wheeler.

Lyons: Elder—Henry M. Clark.

Nassau: Minister—James C. Hume.

New York: Ministers—George L. Shearer, D. D., James H. Hoadley, Henry T. McEwen; Elders—Ezra M. Kingsley, Warner Van Norden.

Niagara: Elders—William F. Evans, William Glover.

Rochester: Minister—Fisher Gutelius; Elders—Loren J. Ames, M. D., Edgar Benedict.

St. Lawrence: Elder—George B. Massey.

Steuben: Minister—John S. Bacon; Elders—Samuel F. Woodworth, Orton O. Laine.

Syracuse: Minister—Alfred H. Fahnestock; Elders—D. Henry Gowing, Jason A. Merrill.

Utica: Elder—Samuel L. Smith.

The minutes of yesterday's session were read and approved.

The Committee appointed last year to canvass the votes of the Presbyteries on the Overture providing for the constitution of the Synod as a delegated body, presented the following report, which was accepted :

As directed by the Synod of New York at its session October 19th, 1883, the undersigned have canvassed the votes of the several Presbyteries on the following Overture :

“The Synod of New York shall be composed of equal delegations of Ministers and Ruling Elders from each Presbytery in the following proportion: each Presbytery, the number of whose ministers and churches taken together is not more than 14, shall send one minister and one elder; each Presbytery containing more than 14 and not more than 28 ministers and churches taken together, shall send two ministers and two elders; and so in like proportion for every additional number of 14 ministers and churches taken together, or for the fraction thereof; *provided*, that no Presbytery shall be entitled to send more than ten ministers and ten elders.”

They hereby certify that the said Overture has been approved by a majority of the Presbyteries.

The Presbyteries voting in the affirmative are: Binghamton, Boston, Brooklyn, Buffalo, Cayuga, Champlain, Chemung, Columbia, Genesee Valley, Hudson, Long Island, Lyons, Nassau, New York, Niagara, North River, Otsego, Rochester, St. Lawrence, Siam, Steuben, Syracuse, Troy, Utica, and Westchester.

The Presbyteries voting in the negative are: Albany, Genesee and Geneva.

The Presbyteries not voting are: Chile and Oroomiah.

JAMES MCLEOD, *Moderator of the Synod in 1883.*

T. RALSTON SMITH, *Stated Clerk.*

J. WILFORD JACKS, *Permanent Clerk.*

The Moderator formally declared that the Overture had been adopted, that the Synod of New York is duly constituted as a delegated body, and that it is lawfully convened as such according to the direction of the Synod at its last meeting.

The Moderator announced the following

STANDING COMMITTEES:

1. BILLS AND OVERTURES:

Ministers—Tryon Edwards, D. D., T. Ralston Smith, D. D., Timothy G. Darling, D. D., Josiah E. Kittredge, D. D., J. Jermain Porter, D. D., James S. Ramsay, L. Merrill Miller, D. D.

Elders—Eleazer A. Peck, Charles G. Brundige, Sanford R. Knapp, Alpha D. Griswold, Sidney Whittmore, Noah T. Clarke.

2. JUDICIAL BUSINESS:

Ministers—Erskine N. White, D. D., Frederick W. Brauns, Charles Hawley, D. D., William A. Niles, D. D., Ninian B. Remick, Epher Whitaker, D. D.

Elders—Edward P. Durant, Edward Wells, Hon. James H. Loomis, John Monroe, Theodore S. Sayre.

3. MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY:

Ministers—J. Aspinwall Hodge, D. D., Andrew J. Fennel, D. D., Herman C. Riggs, D. D.

Elders—William A. Magee, Charles K. Ward.

4. FINANCE:

Elders—Horace B. Silliman, Theodore S. Hubbard, Stanton Cady, Samuel N. Bacon, Fred C. Lounsbury.

5. PLACE OF NEXT MEETING:

Ministers—James D. Wilson, D. D., Charles C. Hemenway, Hugh W. Torrence, Henry U. Swinnerton, Ph. D.

Elders—John G. K. Truair, William Alling, John Dales.

6. SUNDAY SCHOOL WORK:

Ministers—Rufus S. Green, D. D., James N. Crocker, Samuel Jessup, Thornton M. Niven, D. D., Stephen G. Hopkins, Andrew M. Millar.

Elders—Edward H. Lyon, Aaron B. Barnes, Charles B. Armstrong, Gen. Charles F. Blood, Albert A. Seymour, M. D.

7. LEAVE OF ABSENCE:

Ministers—Alphonso R. Olney, William Reed, Erastus W. Twichell.

Elders—James H. Foster, Richard W. White.

8. NOMINATION OF VISITORS TO THE THEOLOGICAL SEMINARIES:

Ministers—David Torrey, D. D., Carson W. Adams, D. D., William W. Totheroh, James Otis Denniston.

Elders—Henry P. Ellinwood, Henry L. Butler, William H. Kent.

9. NOMINATION OF LADIES' SYNODICAL COMMITTEE ON HOME MISSIONS:

Ministers—Charles Wood, James H. Robinson, Newell Woolsey Wells, Robert D. Sproull.

Elders—Aaron P. Lawrence, Gilbert B. Manley, Alonzo Alden.

10. NOMINATION OF THE PERMANENT COMMITTEE ON TEMPERANCE:

Ministers—Augustus W. Cowles, D. D., Benjamin Parsons, Charles C. Carr, Henry A. Porter.

Elders—James K. Penfield, Henry N. Porter, Edmund S. Mills.

11. NOMINATION OF TRUSTEES AND EXAMINERS OF ELMIRA COLLEGE:

Ministers—Levi Parsons, D. D., George W. F. Birch, William H. Bates, Lawrence M. Stevens.

Elders—Herman D. Eastman, Heman D. Fulton, Myron M. Allen.

The Moderator also announced the following

COMMITTEES ON THE RECORDS OF THE PRESBYTERIES:

1. ALBANY: *Ministers*—Irving Magee, D. D., Walter Fry;
Elder—Peter D. Hamilton.
2. BINGHAMTON: . . . *Ministers*—Franklin A. Spencer, Edward M.
Deems; *Elder*—William D. Barnes.
3. BOSTON: *Ministers*—Isaac Jennings, Jr., Thomas Dob-
bin; *Elder*—William H. Van Sickle.
4. BROOKLYN: . . . *Ministers*—William L. Austin, George B.
Stevens; *Elder*—Warren Hurd.
5. BUFFALO: *Ministers*—William H. Allbright, William J.
Bridges; *Elder*—John B. McLean.
6. CAYUGA: *Ministers*—Alexander Rankin, J. Perry Beaver;
Elder—Robert Oliver.
7. CHAMPLAIN: . . . *Ministers*—Cassius H. Dibble, Edwin Allen;
Elder—Theodore A. Drake.
8. CHEMUNG: *Ministers*—Frederick B. Savage, Robert Bar-
bour; *Elder*—Hugh T. McNair.
9. CHILE: *Ministers*—William H. Millham, Lewis R.
Webber; *Elder*—George R. Bell.
10. COLUMBIA: . . . *Ministers*—Edward Bristol, Marcus N. Preston;
Elder—Arthur M. Peck.
11. GENESEE: *Ministers*—Alexander O. Peloubet, Robert E.
Campbell; *Elder*—Samuel F. Horsey.
12. GENESEE VALLEY: *Ministers*—John G. Blue, David F. Bonner;
Elder—Charles S. Judd.
13. GENEVA: *Ministers*—Samuel Whaley, William Ingleby;
Elder—John D. Blakeley.

14. HUDSON: *Ministers*—Hiram H. Kellogg, Adolphus E. Wanderer; *Elder*—Bartholomew G. McCabe, M. D.
15. LONG ISLAND: . . *Ministers*—John D. Countermine, Samuel A. Freeman; *Elder*—Samuel C. Van Vliet, Jr.
16. LYONS: *Ministers*—Peter J. H. Myers, Edwin H. Dickinson; *Elder*—Justus Van Deusen.
17. NASSAU: *Ministers*—George Fairlee, Theodore F. Burnham; *Elder*—Adna Ayers.
18. NEW YORK: . . . *Ministers*—Isaac O. Rankin, Frank W. Townsend; *Elder*—Henry F. Benton.
19. NIAGARA: *Ministers*—David McLeod, Augustus B. Prichard; *Elder*—James Hawkins.
20. NORTH RIVER: . . *Ministers*—Almon R. Hewitt, John C. Long; *Elder*—James F. Cowee.
21. OROOMIAH: . . . *Ministers*—Fenwick T. Williams, Orson L. White; *Elder*—Jeremiah B. Whitbeck.
22. OTSEGO: *Ministers*—Benjamin F. Millard, Lee W. Beattie; *Elder*—J. Edwin Allen.
23. ROCHESTER: . . . *Ministers*—Lewis H. Morey, Charles F. Janes; *Elder*—William W. Wickes.
24. ST. LAWRENCE: *Ministers*—Slator C. Hepburn, Andrew Cochran; *Elder*—Edwin D. Mead.
25. SIAM: *Ministers*—Joseph K. Wight, David I. Biggar; *Elder*—Andrew Sharp.
26. STEUBEN: *Ministers*—Charles Simpson, Willis W. Dowd; *Elder*—Robert Smith.
27. SYRACUSE: *Ministers*—Luther A. Ostrander, Dana W. Bigelow; *Elder*—William Van Wagenen.
28. TROY: *Ministers*—William Swan, Henry A. Davenport; *Elder*—William Evans.
29. UTICA: *Ministers*—Henry A. Harlow, George W. F. Birch; *Elder*—Robert M. Mateer.
30. WESTCHESTER: . . *Ministers*—Hamilton B. Holmes, Allen Traver; *Elder*—Hugh T. Brooks.

The Docket of Business was read by the Permanent Clerk.

The Records of the Presbyteries and their Statistical Reports were presented on the calling of the roll.

Overtures, Memorials, Appeals and Complaints were called for, and placed in the hands of the Stated Clerk for reference to the appropriate committees.

It was made the first order of business for Thursday morning to hear the report of the Committee on the Condition of the Churches and Mission Work ; and the first order for Thursday afternoon to receive the reports of the Committees on the Records of the Presbyteries.

The Judicial Commission appointed last year presented the following report of its proceedings, which was ordered to be entered in the records of the Synod :

The Synod of New York, at its meeting in October, 1883, appointed as a Commission, with power to try the appeal of Jonathan Chamberlain from a decision of the Presbytery of Rochester, "and bring it to a decision at its earliest convenience," the Rev. Messrs. William A. Niles, D. D., Edward B. Walsworth, D. D., William W. Totheroh, Maltbie D. Babcock, A. Parke Burgess, Cornelius S. Stowits, and Elders Thomas T. Flagler, James H. Loomis, and Joseph H. Plumb.

This Commission met at LeRoy, December 3d, 1883, all being present except the Rev. A. Parke Burgess and Elder Joseph H. Plumb, who were providentially detained. The parties preferring that these vacancies should not be filled, the Commission proceeded to try the appeal in accordance with the directions of the Book of Discipline in such cases prescribed. The parties were ably represented by counsel who were fully heard.

The following is a brief history of the case :

In connection with legal and social controversies in the community, W. J. Byam, Esq., a resident lawyer of Caledonia, but not a member of any Church, presented to the Session of the Church of Caledonia, at its meeting held December 27th, 1881, charges of falsehood, profanity and obscenity against Jonathan Chamberlain, a member of said Church. The Session permitted Mr. Byam to act as prosecutor, none of the previous steps required by our Book having been taken by him. After trial, the Session, on February 20th, 1882, by a vote of three to one, sustained the one charge of falsehood, and suspended Mr. Chamberlain from the communion of the Church. Party spirit running high in the Church and congregation, two of the elders, who had voted for his suspension, resigned, and, on April 26th, 1882, the congregation elected four new elders. Thereupon Mr. Chamberlain asked the Presbytery of Rochester to remand his case to the Session, thus newly constituted, with direction to re-open it on the ground of new testimony. The Presbytery refused to accede to the request, but declared that the Session was competent to re-open the case if new testimony was presented, and to amend its record, if, in its judgment, the interests of religion required it.

The Session then, without receiving any new testimony, proceeded to review the record of the old Session, and declared that the testimony therein presented was not sufficient to warrant the conviction of Mr. Chamberlain; and so reversed that decision, and restored him to the communion of the Church.

From this decision of the Session Mr. Byam appealed to the Presbytery of Rochester.

One of the elders of the old Session, who had resigned, and had taken a letter of dismission from the Church, also entered a complaint to the Presbytery against this same action of the Session.

The Presbytery admitted the appeal and the complaint, reversed the decision of the Session, and enjoined it not again to attempt to restore Mr. Chamberlain to the communion of the Church, without first receiving the permission of the Presbytery.

From this action of the Presbytery of Rochester Mr. Chamberlain appeals to the Synod of New York.

The Commission, having given this case careful consideration, makes the following decision:

The appeal of Jonathan Chamberlain from the action of the Presbytery of Rochester should be, and hereby is, *sustained* on the ground of grave irregularities in the conduct of the case before the Session and also before the Presbytery.

The fact that Mr. Byam, not a member of the Church, and thus not subject to its jurisdiction, was admitted by the Session as a prosecutor, was entirely irregular, and is of itself sufficient to vitiate all of the decisions of the Session in the case.

The Presbytery of Rochester acted irregularly in overlooking this error of the Session and in receiving an appeal made by Mr. Byam.

The effect of this decision of the Commission is to render the entire action of both courts in the case, inoperative, null and void; and to place Mr. Chamberlain in the position which he occupied in the Church previous to the presentation of the charges against him.

The Commission is the more ready to adopt the action above indicated, from the conviction that thereby no injustice will be done to any, and that the interests of religion and peace in the Church of Caledonia will not be sacrificed.

WILLIAM A. NILES,
Chairman.

A communication was received from the Young Men's Christian Association, inviting the members of the Synod to visit its new building, and avail themselves of the privileges of the Reading and Correspondence Rooms, at their convenience.

The invitation was accepted with the thanks of the Synod.

The Committee on Systematic Beneficence and the Work of the Church, through its Acting Chairman, Rev. Rufus S. Green, D. D., presented its report, which was accepted.

Pursuant to appointment, the Rev. David R. Frazer, D. D., as the representative of the Board of Church Election, and the Rev. Daniel W. Poor, D. D., the Secretary of the Board of Education, addressed the Synod.

The following papers were reported by the Stated Clerk, and referred to the Committee on Bills and Overtures: 1. A Memorial from the Presbytery of Genesee concerning the desecration of the Lord's Day; 2. A Memorial from the Presbytery of Siam, requesting the division of that Presbytery; 3. A request from the First German Church, of East Williamsburg, to be transferred from the Presbytery of Nassau to the Presbytery of Brooklyn, accompanied by certified copies of the action of both Presbyteries in the case.

The Stated Clerk also reported the following papers, which were referred to the Committee on Judicial Business: 1. A complaint against the Presbytery of Albany, and an appeal from its decision by Walter Bradshaw; 2. An appeal of Albert F. Vedder from a decision of the same Presbytery.

The Committee of Arrangements presented the following report, which was adopted:

The Committee of Arrangements recommends:

1. That the Communion Service this afternoon be under the direction of the Moderator; and that he be assisted in serving the communicants by the following Ruling Elders: Edward P. Durant, William W. Wickes, James H. Loomis, Ezra M. Kingsley, William Alling, Edward Wells.
2. That the Rev. Loyal Y. Hays, Corresponding Secretary of the American Institute of Hebrew, be heard briefly in relation to the Hebrew Correspondence School.
3. That at the Home Missionary Meeting this evening, the Moderator preside, and addresses be made by Rev. Messrs. Timothy G. Darling, D. D., Erskine N. White, D. D., and Robert D. Sproull.

The Rev. Loyal Y. Hays addressed the Synod upon the aims and work of the Hebrew Correspondence School.

A recess was taken until three o'clock P. M.

Closed with prayer.

WEDNESDAY, October 22d, 3 o'clock P. M.

After the recess, the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper was administered in accordance with the previous arrangement.

Following a brief intermission, the Synod resumed its business.

The Rev. Messrs. T. Ralston Smith, D. D., Erskine N. White, D. D., and Elder Edward Wells were appointed a committee to report such changes in the Standing Rules as may be necessary in view of the fact that the Synod has become a delegated body.

The consideration of the report of the Committee on Systematic Beneficence and the Work of the Church was resumed, and its recommendations were adopted.

The report is as follows:

The *Work of the Church*, stated broadly, is the Evangelization of the World. "Go ye into all the world, and preach the Gospel to every creature," "Disciple all Nations,"

are the marching orders of the church militant. To aim at less than this would be disloyalty to the great Captain of our salvation.

The Presbyterian Church is not thus disloyal. It recognizes the binding obligation of these commands. It is seeking to obey them. It expended last year for the maintenance and spread of the Gospel, \$10,169,401, of which \$2,813,610 were for purely missionary purposes at home and abroad; an ample refutation of the charge that religion is losing its hold upon the affections of the people.

Of the above amount the Synod of New York gave, as compared with the whole church, for

	<i>Synod of N. Y.</i>	<i>Whole Ch.</i>
Home Missions,	\$209,338	\$620,023
Foreign Missions,	175,616	550,220
Education,	37,276	118,956
Publication,	7,057	35,907
Church Erection,	42,575	193,047
Relief Fund,	20,555	80,288
Freedmen,	20,330	86,452
Aid for Colleges,	29,094	76,415
Sustentation,	3,397	24,845
General Assembly,	11,384	51,037
Miscellaneous Objects,	310,720	976,420
Congregational Expenses,	1,910,320	7,355,791
Total,	<u>\$2,777,662</u>	<u>\$10,169,401</u>

It thus appears that of the total amount expended, 27 per cent. came from this Synod, while of the sum given to other than Congregational expenses the Synod contributed 31 per cent.

Compared with the figures of one year ago we find an increase in the Synod's total expenditure of \$207,036, while in contributions to the Boards there is an increase of \$44,358, the figures for 1882-83 being \$500,880, and for 1883-84, \$545,238.

The general missionary work of our Church is carried on, as is well known, through the agency of its several Boards. The blessing of God has been upon the labors of these Boards. Doors have been opened and entered. New fields have been occupied. Old fields have been enlarged. The divine favor thus becomes a call, as clear and ringing as though audibly spoken by the Master Himself, for increased consecration on the part of His people. For the current year there is needed, for

Home Missions,	\$650,000
Foreign Missions,	750,000
Education,	150,000
Publication,	75,000
Church Erection,	200,000
Relief Fund,	150,000
Freedmen,	150,000
Colleges and Academies,	100,000
	<u>\$2,225,000</u>

The very success with which the Lord has crowned the past makes these amounts imperative for the necessities of the present year.

What is our *responsibility* as a Synod in the face of these pressing needs?

Two facts should be considered before answer is made to this question :

1st. The Synod of New York embraces nearly one-fourth of all the members of our Church, the exact figures being 136,337 out of 615,942 communicants.

2d. While the largest in numbers, it is also by far the wealthiest of our Synods.

These two facts taken together point to the answer that this Synod ought to contribute nearly or quite one million dollars to the Boards of our Church during the present ecclesiastical year.

How are we meeting this responsibility? becomes then the next pertinent question.

Correspondence with the Boards reveals the gratifying fact that there has been an increase in the gifts of our Churches over the corresponding months of the past year; but there still remains against us a very large margin of deficiency in performing our whole duty.

We cannot reach the end proposed by equalling the past rate of increase. The Synod gave for

	1882-83.	1883-84.	Increase.	Decrease.
Home Missions,	\$182,361	\$209,338	\$26,977	. . . . .
Foreign Missions,	153,695	175,616	21,921	. . . . .
Education,	59,510	37,276	. . . . .	\$22,234
Publication,	12,445	7,057	. . . . .	5,388
Church Erection,	42,847	42,575	. . . . .	272
Relief Fund,	23,222	20,555	. . . . .	2,667
Freedmen,	23,443	20,330	. . . . .	3,113
Aid for Colleges, . . . . .	. . . . .	29,094	29,094	. . . . .
Sustentation,	3,357	3,397	40	. . . . .
Total,	\$500,880	\$545,238	\$78,032	\$33,674
Net increase,				\$44,358.

This is an increase of less than nine per cent. The same gain this year would raise our gifts to nearly \$600,000, still \$400,000 short of the needed million. Let us meet the problem fairly. We ought to double our contributions. We are doing but half our duty.

We ask the question, then, *is this advance possible?* Is it possible for this Synod to raise for our Boards during the current year the sum of one million dollars? We are reminded of the depressed condition of business, and the generally gloomy financial outlook. Would not the attempt to increase our gifts so largely place an unbearable strain upon our Churches? Let us see. Divide \$1,000,000 by 136,337, the number of our communicants, and we have \$7.33. Divide \$7.33 by 365, the number of days in the year, and the quotient is two cents. An average of *two cents a day* would yield to our Boards from this Synod one million dollars for the missionary work of the Church. Doubtless there are instances where the gift of even this small sum is impossible, but we cannot believe them numerous. Let the love of God and of souls take possession of the heart, let the pressing importance of the work of evangelizing the world for Jesus be realized, and there are not many who can not spare two cents a day for this end. We are speaking, however, of averages. There are not a few who yearly give their thousands, many their hundreds, and an untold number their tens of dollars to the Boards.

The gifts of our Sunday Schools, many of whose members are not reckoned in the number of communicants, and of large-minded individuals who are not professing Christians, are also considerable. The unpleasant conclusion thus fastens itself upon us that no small

portion of our members gives absolutely nothing to these appointed agencies of the Church in its missionary work.

This conclusion is verified by the Minutes of the General Assembly and the Reports of the Boards, from which it appears that of our 787 Churches 155 failed to contribute to Home Missions, 164 to Foreign Missions, 377 to Education, 441 to Publication, 391 to Church Erection, 340 to the Relief Fund, 394 to Freedmen, 571 to Sustentation, and 723 to Colleges and Academies. Or, to put it differently, only 3,527 out of 7,083 blanks were filled—not quite one half. Our Churches failed in 3,556 contributions to our several Boards.

The following is the list of failures by Presbyteries, the numbers denoting the unfilled blanks for each Board in each of our 27 home Presbyteries:

PRESBYTERIES.	No. of Churches.	Home Missions.	Foreign Missions.	Education.	Publication.	Church Erection.	Relief Fund.	Freedmen.	Sustentation.	Aid for Colleges.
Albany,	48	15	6	28	29	25	23	25	37	44
Binghamton,	29	9	11	12	17	15	13	16	20	28
Boston,	18	2	2	7	8	6	6	7	11	18
Brooklyn,	26	4	5	14	22	16	14	16	20	25
Buffalo,	32	6	9	15	15	15	14	15	17	27
Cayuga,	22	5	1	10	7	9	11	9	18	21
Champlain,	17	1	1	10	12	13	8	10	16	17
Chemung,	23	4	6	14	17	12	10	15	20	21
Columbia,	19	9	1	14	12	11	12	14	17	16
Genesee,	23	6	4	12	11	12	9	9	21	23
Genesee Valley,	15	4	6	11	10	10	10	11	13	12
Geneva,	22	2	4	9	11	8	10	10	17	18
Hudson,	44	4	8	16	19	15	16	18	25	42
Long Island,	22	1	3	10	9	14	7	10	16	19
Lyons,	18	6	7	13	11	12	11	11	14	16
Nassau,	23	3	8	17	18	18	13	15	19	22
New York,	60	10	13	11	48	34	28	33	51	54
Niagara,	18	3	4	8	10	8	5	9	14	17
North River,	31	11	10	18	23	20	16	17	24	30
Otsego,	26	9	6	16	17	20	18	16	20	25
Rochester,	43	2	5	15	18	14	8	16	28	38
St. Lawrence,	30	5	7	13	13	11	11	17	21	29
Steuben,	19	2	4	12	8	6	10	11	13	17
Syracuse,	35	12	11	16	18	17	14	16	27	32
Troy,	43	8	8	22	24	21	17	19	31	38
Utica,	42	12	11	24	23	23	20	19	31	40
Westchester,	39	0	3	10	11	6	6	10	10	34
Total,	787	155	164	377	441	391	340	394	571	723

Here is a vast constituency of non-contributors, who have but to become conscious of their duty and privilege, to swell greatly the receipts of our benevolent treasuries.

Then, too, in the contributing Churches there is perhaps an even greater number of non-contributors. The collection is made, but only a fraction of the members contribute. Some are indifferent, more are careless. They are possibly absent from Church on the day of the Home or Foreign Missionary collection, and it never occurs to them to bring their offerings at another time.

And of those who contribute how few have any system of proportionate giving! It is a hap-hazard business with the majority of Christians, and as a consequence they give far

less than would be the case did they realize that their gifts should be *as* the Lord has prospered them.

Reach these three classes, the non-contributing Churches, the non-contributing individuals in contributing Churches, and those who contribute with no idea of proportionate giving, and hence disproportionately to their ability, and the problem is measurably solved.

Let each one do his whole duty and the average of two cents a day will prove neither burdensome nor unreasonable.

What then is to be done in order to bring the Synod up to the measure of its responsibility? What are the means to the end?

First of all, individual obligation ought to be urged upon our church-members with the most earnest emphasis. It is the solemn duty of every Christian to bring his gift to the Lord. Both the Old and New Testaments use the most positive language on this point: "*Every man shall give as he is able,*" "*Let everyone of you lay by him in store.*" Israel's failure to bring the tithes is even called robbery, for which the nation was cursed with a curse. Giving is more than a duty; it is a high and blessed privilege. "It is more blessed to give than to receive." It is a Christian grace in which we are exhorted to abound. Our church-members should be instructed both as to their duty and privilege in this matter; they should be exhorted to "abound in this grace also."

Church Sessions should be brought to realize their responsibility in this matter. How can they answer to the Lord if they decline to give His people opportunity to help forward the great work which He has enjoined upon His Church? Each Session should see to it that in the Church over which it rules some plan of proportionate giving is introduced.

Especially ought pastors to take the deepest interest in this matter. We can not understand how any minister of the Lord Jesus can be indifferent to, or timidly selfish concerning the Lord's work. They should instruct their people in the great missionary work of the Church, as well as in the duty of Systematic Beneficence. There should be neither timidity nor remissness on their part. Systematic pastors will make systematic Churches.

Presbyteries and their committees ought to exercise a more careful supervision over their Churches, and seek to reduce to the smallest limit the number of blanks in the benevolent columns. What can be done in this direction may be seen from the Presbyteries of Butler and New Brunswick in which every blank has been filled.

Your Committee makes the following recommendations:

1. That the Synod strive to contribute to the Treasuries of our Boards during the current year the sum of one million dollars.
2. That all under the care of the Synod—each member of the Church, be urged to set apart regularly a certain portion of his income to the Lord, thus making proportionate giving a part of his Christian life.
3. That Church Sessions, and especially pastors, being responsible for the teaching and training of the people, be directed to instruct their Churches in the duty of systematic giving, and to introduce into them some plan of beneficence, which shall conform as nearly as possible to the Apostolic rule, "*Upon the first day of the week, let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him.*"
4. That the Monthly Concert be observed in all of our Churches, and that a part of the time be devoted to prayer for, and consideration of the work in, our own land.
5. That each Presbytery be charged, either directly by way of review and control or through its Committee on Systematic Beneficence, to bring the pressure of a kindly authority to bear upon all delinquent Churches, to the end that every blank may be filled.
6. That each Presbytery be requested at its next Stated Meeting to consider the advisableness of printing and distributing, in accordance with the suggestion of the General Assembly's Committee on Systematic Beneficence, a tabulated annual statement of the gifts

of its Churches to each Board, showing the increase or decrease over the previous year, as well as the amount given per member.

7. In the judgment of your Committee the cause of Beneficence within the bounds of the Synod would be greatly advanced could greater permanency be given to the Standing Committee on Systematic Beneficence. Your Committee therefore recommends that the committee to be appointed at this meeting in accordance with the Standing Rule should be appointed with a view to continuous work from year to year at the pleasure of the Synod.

Your Committee has labored under the serious disadvantage of the absence of its chairman, Rev. Wilson Phraner, D. D., owing to which the work of preparing this report has fallen into less able and experienced hands.

Another member of the Committee, the Rev. James M. Platt, D. D., has been called to his heavenly reward. Your Committee desires to place on record its high appreciation of him as a noble man, a wise counsellor, an able minister, and a willing worker in every good cause.

The Committee on Systematic Beneficence farther reported, as required by the Standing Rule, a Pastoral Letter, which was adopted and ordered to be printed in the Appendix to the Minutes.

It was directed that such portions of the letter as are addressed to the Sessions and Churches be read by the ministers to their several congregations.

A recess was taken until half-past seven o'clock P. M.

Closed with prayer.

WEDNESDAY, October 22d, 7.30 o'clock P. M.

After the recess, in accordance with the previous arrangement, devotional services were held, and addresses were made on the subject of Home Missions.

Adjourned until to-morrow at nine o'clock A. M.

Closed with prayer.

THURSDAY, October 23d, 9 o'clock A. M.

The Synod met, and spent the first half hour in devotional services.

The roll was called.

The minutes of yesterday's sessions were read and approved.

The Committee on the Condition of the Churches and Mission Work within the bounds of the Synod presented the following report, which was accepted, and the resolutions therein were adopted:

The past year has been one of general prosperity on the part of the Churches within our bounds. Of the 779 Churches in the Synod of New York, 443 are reported in the Minutes of the last General Assembly as having settled pastors, 214 as having stated supplies, and 122 as being vacant. To these Churches there have been added, during the year, 9,992 members, an excess of 918 over the number reported in 1883. For the good gifts of God's grace thus bestowed, it becomes the Synod to be both glad and grateful.

A careful survey, however, of the field covered by this Synod cannot fail to impress every thoughtful mind with the fact that our Church fails to discharge its whole duty with reference to those within the sphere of its influence. Even in this Christian commonwealth, and so much of its sister States as is covered by the Presbytery of Boston, "there remaineth yet very much land to be possessed." In our large cities there are many districts which are unoccupied by Churches of our denomination, while in the rural regions there are frequently wide gaps to be found between the organized representatives of our faith and order. Add to these the work of a purely missionary character which might be done among the adherents of Papal Rome, the boatmen on our canals, the miners in our iron districts, and the lumbermen in our forests, and it is easy to perceive that the Church needs to quicken its missionary spirit, and enlarge the scope of its aggressive activity. Certainly, as an influential body of Christian believers, we have no right to ignore the spiritual needs of these large masses of our fellow citizens. Like ourselves they are the creatures of God, spiritual and immortal, requiring enlightenment, renewal, and sanctification. If our present methods are not adapted to the successful accomplishment of this work, new methods should be devised. God has placed these people within our bounds and commanded us to care for their souls. How we shall fulfil His behests is a matter of the utmost moment. Your Committee, therefore, recommends the adoption of the following resolution:

Resolved, That a Committee consisting of five ministers and four elders be appointed to consider the duty of this Synod with reference to the unevangelized masses within its bounds, and suggest such plans as in their judgment are suited to facilitate its discharge, reporting the same at the next regular meeting of the Synod.

With regard to the feeble Churches already existing within our bounds, equally serious questions arise challenging the attention of this Synod. Every one familiar with the statistics of population is aware that there is a constant exodus from the rural districts of New England and the Middle States. The enterprising young men of our country Churches are drifting almost daily in the direction of our large cities and the States and Territories of the great West. They are leaving many of our older Churches in a crippled condition, and compelling them to seek partial support outside of their own membership. Scores of Churches once strong are now for this reason deplorably weak. And for maintaining such Churches within our bounds the Board of Home Missions has during the past year appropriated the sum of nearly or quite \$20,000 apart from the still larger sum donated for this object by Churches and private individuals. The money thus contributed is by no means wasted; on the contrary it yields a percentage of interest every way satisfactory. But for these country Churches many of our city Churches would be far less prosperous than they are; while the constituency of our Western work would be very largely cut off. At all hazards our feeble Churches in the rural districts must be maintained.

At the same time, with all the demands made upon the Board of Home Missions for aggressive work in the West, with all the inviting fields opened up for new enterprises, and all the urgent appeals presented for their immediate occupancy, it does seem as if the Board ought not to be compelled to expend so large a proportion of its income in sustaining these older Churches in our own and the contiguous States. A large number of vigorous new Churches could every year be organized by the Board with the money which is now employed in these old and oftentimes decadent Churches. Your Committee, therefore, reiterates the recommendation of the Synod last year, and suggests the adoption of the following resolutions:

Resolved, That in the judgment of this Synod each Presbytery should assume, so far as practicable, the distinctive Home Mission Work to be done within its bounds, entrusting to a committee, appointed for that purpose, the oversight of its feeble and vacant Churches, and supporting these Churches so far as they need outside aid by special funds collected in the Presbytery for that purpose, without making demands upon the Treasury of the Board of Home Missions, or in any degree diminishing the amount contributed to that Board.

Resolved, That a Committee consisting of five ministers and four elders be appointed to prepare a plan of sustentation for the feeble Churches within our bounds, and report the same to the Synod at its next meeting.

As a further help in the maintenance of our feeble Churches the possession of parsonages is devoutly to be desired. The manses of the Scottish Church have greatly increased its efficiency as a self-supporting organization. And while in this country the conditions are somewhat different, the practical outcome is substantially the same. In many places it is almost impossible for a pastor to secure a house, especially if he assumes his charge at any other time than that at which houses are annually rented. Moreover, the amount paid for rent is so much additional to be every year contributed by the Church itself, or by those who are expected to supplement its lack. And not unfrequently this amount is the sum, however small it may be, which straitens the pastor, and proves onerous to the people. A parsonage owned and occupied solves many a difficult problem in ecclesiastical economics. And if Churches were all possessed of a suitable dwelling place for their ministers, pastorates would, in many cases, be more permanent and productive. Some of our Presbyteries have already appreciated this fact, and inaugurated movements for procuring parsonages for all their feeble Churches. It would be well if all the Presbyteries pursued a similar course. And hence your Committee suggests for adoption the following resolution:

Resolved, That it be recommended to the Presbyteries of this Synod to take such action as they may deem expedient to secure parsonages for the feeble Churches within their bounds.

As an additional aid in the support of feeble Churches and the conduct of Mission work within the bounds of the Synod, your Committee is constrained to call attention again to the subject of a closer and more effective supervision of the fields covered by our several Presbyteries. While in exceptional instances the Presbyterial Home Mission Committees faithfully fulfil the duty devolved upon them in the matter of supervisory care of the Churches, it is far from being the case in most of the Presbyteries of the Synod. Busy pastors, indeed, can not devote sufficient time to this work to compass the end desired. And unless some qualified person is specially commissioned to discharge this duty the Churches are sure to suffer. An illustration of the advantages derived from the special supervision suggested is found in the case of those Presbyteries where for several years it has been exercised. Since 1879 the Presbyteries of Albany and Troy have had the services of a special Superintendent, who has cared for the feeble and vacant Churches within their bounds.

Previous to that year both Presbyteries had always a large number of vacant Churches on their rolls, and some of these had well nigh become extinct. But by continuous effort on the part of the Superintendent during the last five years, this state of things has been changed, so that while in the Synod as a whole there are 122 vacant Churches out of a total of 779, or one in every $6\frac{1}{3}$, in the Presbytery of Albany there are three vacant Churches out of a total of forty-eight, or one in every sixteen, and in the Presbytery of Troy there are four vacant Churches out of a total of forty-four, or one in every eleven. If work such as this could be done in all the Presbyteries composing this Synod, the power of Presbyterianism would be greatly increased in this and the adjacent States. And your Committee feels that this venerable body should lose no time in securing the services of a capable Superintendent who, acting under the direction of the Home Mission Committees of the several Presbyteries, shall visit the feeble and vacant Churches within their bounds, encouraging the first and procuring pastors or stated supplies for the others; and who shall also explore destitute fields, and plant new Churches where it is possible. Some of our Presbyteries may not need or desire such a Superintendent. If so, the Synod should by no means thrust one upon them, or require them to contribute to his support. But there are Presbyteries who are anxious to secure the services of such an agent, and are willing to compensate him for his work. Your Committee regards it as their right to receive the sanction of the Synod in undertaking a work which contemplates so fully the good of the Church and the glory of Christ. It therefore recommends the adoption of the following resolutions:

Resolved, That this Synod hereby sanctions the employment of a Synodical Superintendent or Superintendents of feeble and vacant Churches and Mission fields, who shall act in each Presbytery under the direction of the Committee of that Presbytery having charge of its feeble and vacant Churches, and devote his or their time and efforts to the encouragement of feeble Churches, the procuring of pastors or supplies for vacant Churches, and the organization of new Churches.

Resolved, That the Moderator of this Synod, the Stated and Permanent Clerks, and the Treasurer, be a committee to select and employ a suitable person or persons to serve in this capacity, at an annual salary not to exceed \$1800 and expenses while on the field.

Resolved, That all the Presbyteries desiring to secure the services of such a Superintendent be instructed to communicate this fact to the Stated Clerk of the Synod on or before December 15th, 1884, and that the Stated Clerk and Treasurer be authorized to apportion the salary of the Superintendent among the coöperating Presbyteries pursuant to the pro-rata at present established as the basis of Synodical assessments.

On page 47 of the Minutes of the Synod for 1883, certain questions were submitted to the Presbyteries, and the Committee on the Condition of the Churches and Mission Work was instructed to report upon the answers received. Only two Presbyteries have acted upon these questions, so far as the Committee has been informed, and hence there is no occasion for it to report upon this matter.

The Board of Examiners of Elmira College presented its annual report, which was accepted and ordered to be placed on file.

In accordance with appointment the Rev. Hervey D. Ganse, D. D., addressed the Synod on the work of the Board of Aid for Colleges and Academies, and the Rev. Richard H. Allen, D. D., on Mission Work for Freedmen.

It was made the second order of business for this afternoon to hear the

report of the Committee on the Endowment of Hamilton College, and the third to hear the report of the Committee on Bills and Overtures.

The Committee of Arrangements presented a report which was adopted, recommending that at the Foreign Missionary meeting this evening the Moderator preside, and addresses be made by the Rev. Arthur Mitchell, D. D., one of the Secretaries of the Board of Foreign Missions, and the Rev. Alexander M. Merwin, of Valparaiso, Chile.

A recess was taken until half-past two o'clock P. M.

Closed with prayer.

THURSDAY, October 23d, 2.30 o'clock P. M.

The Synod met and was opened with prayer.

The first order of the day was taken up, and the Committees on the Records of the following Presbyteries reported, recommending that the records severally be approved, as far as written, namely: Albany, Boston, Brooklyn, Buffalo, Cayuga, Champlain, Chemung, Chile, Columbia, Genesee, Genesee Valley, Geneva, Hudson, Long Island, Lyons, Nassau, New York, Niagara, North River, Otsego, St. Lawrence, Siam, Steuben, Syracuse, Troy, and Westchester.

The reports were adopted.

The Committee on the Records of the Presbytery of Binghamton reported, recommending that they be approved as far as written, with the following exception: "That careless mistakes are found which are not excusable; and the Presbytery is enjoined to take better care of its records."

The report was adopted.

The Committee on the Records of the Presbytery of Rochester presented the following report, which was adopted:

The Committee found that the records of this Presbytery had not been approved since 1882. In the printed Minutes of the Synod for 1883, page 51, is recorded the following action: "In view of the appointment by the Synod of a Judicial Commission to try an appeal from a decision of this Presbytery in which its records are involved, the Committee recommends that no action upon them be taken at this meeting." This made it necessary for the Committee to review 55 pages of records covering the last two years. As the decision of the Synod's Commission in the judicial case, reversing the decision of the Presbytery, is incorporated in its records, and accepted by the Presbytery, it is recommended that the records be approved.

The Committee on the Records of the Presbytery of Oroomiah reported, recommending that they be approved, and that the Presbytery be requested to send to the Synod hereafter more complete abstracts of its proceedings.

The report was adopted.

The Committee on the Records of the Presbytery of Utica reported, recommending their approval, as far as written, with the following exceptions:

The Synod does not approve of giving simply the initials, and omitting to write in full the first name of each minister and elder present; of omitting the names of absentees from each meeting; of using abbreviations in the engrossed records; of such carelessness in engrossing as appears in the record on page 157, where the Church in Kirkland is said to be "received as a member of this body," and the elder is said to be "enrolled"; on page 158, where, in the sentence "so long as his services can be secured a sum not greater than is now paid," the word "for" is omitted; on page 160, where, in the sentence "our duty to forth further effort," the word "put" is left out; and on page 170, where, in the sentence "was appointed to declare the pulpit taken," the last word should be "vacant."

It does not approve the action of the Presbytery in adopting a resolution in the Report of the Committee on Temperance, in which the Presbytery "endorses" an act of the State Legislature, "and urges its strict enforcement;" on the ground that the act does not need its endorsement, and an ecclesiastical body as such, a court of the Church, has no authority with which to enforce a civil law.

It does not approve the omission of the Annual Statistical Report to the Assembly.

The report was adopted.

The second order of the day was taken up,⁶ and the Committee on the Endowment of Hamilton College presented its report, which was accepted, and the recommendations therein were adopted, as follows:

The past year has witnessed but little progress in the endowment of this distinctively Presbyterian institution. The amount added to the available assets of the College since the last meeting of the Synod is \$18,000. Of this sum about \$2,000 has been the gift of the Churches pursuant to the plan prescribed by the Synod. The remainder has been derived from personal subscriptions and legacies. The amount contributed by the Churches is deplorably small. When the Synod was last in session more than 600 of its Churches had disregarded its urgent recommendation and given nothing toward the endowment of the College. It was hoped that after the Synod had reaffirmed its previous resolutions and commended the institution anew to the sympathy and interest, the efforts and liberality of all in our communion who are lovers of sound and sanctified learning, many of these Churches would immediately respond to the appeal. But in this both the College and the Committee have been sadly disappointed. The total receipts during the year from the nearly 800 Churches connected with this Synod have been only \$2,000. Doubtless more would have been contributed by the Churches but for the long and serious illness of President Darling at the commencement of the College year, which compelled him to cancel all his engagements for presenting the interests of the institution. As some of these engage-

ments were with prominent and wealthy Churches a serious loss was entailed. But apart from this, your Committee feels that the Churches have been remiss in discharging the duty assigned them by the Synod in the matter of this endowment.

The exact amount subscribed and contributed by the Churches in connection with the special collection ordained by the Synod neither the College authorities nor the Committee have any means of knowing. In consequence of the neglect of pastors to send to the Commissioner of the College a complete list of subscriptions, as well as of moneys paid in, this information is withheld. It is exceedingly desirable that the facts bearing upon this matter should be at once communicated; and your Committee earnestly requests all persons having in their possession either subscriptions or moneys belonging to the College at once to forward them to the Treasurer of the College, Mr. P. V. Rogers, First National Bank, Utica.

The total amount of the endowment fund paid into the Treasury of the College up to July 1st, 1884, was \$57,779.29. This is scarcely more than one-tenth of the sum which the authorities of the institution proposed to raise, and which the Presbyterian Church in this State conditionally promised to give.

Whatever may be our views respecting the wisdom of maintaining a distinctively Presbyterian College in this State, they have no relation to our present duty in the premises. Whatever opinions we may entertain respecting Hamilton College, or anything relating to its administration or achievements, they are not to bias our action in regard to the endowment. We have pledged ourselves as a Church to higher education in this State, and conditionally to raise for Hamilton College the sum of \$500,000. These pledges are known and read of all men. And they ought to be redeemed.

Your Committee therefore recommends for adoption the following resolutions:

Resolved, That in view of the pledges given by this Synod to Hamilton College, both Churches and private individuals within our bounds are hereby urgently requested to contribute liberally during the next Synodical year to the endowment of this institution.

Resolved, That the Committee on the Endowment of Hamilton College, representing the Presbyteries, be continued, and that it be earnestly requested to take such measures as it may deem expedient to secure the completion of the endowment at the earliest possible date.

The following were appointed members of the Committee on the Endowment of Hamilton College: the Rev. Dwight K. Steele, of the Presbytery of Genesee Valley, in place of the Rev. David Winters, removed; the Rev. Cornelius S. Stowits, of the Presbytery of Niagara, in place of the Rev. John S. Bacon, removed; and the Rev. William A. Niles, D. D., of the Presbytery of Steuben, in place of the Rev. James M. Platt, D. D., deceased.

The third order of the day was taken up, and the Committee on Bills and Overtures presented the following report, which was adopted:

The Committee on Bills and Overtures reports *Overture No. 1*, from the Presbytery of Genesee, relating to the desecration of the Lord's Day, and recommends that it be answered by referring to the deliverances of the General Assembly on this subject, and by urging our ministers, elders, and church members to do all in their power to impress the importance of the proper observance of the Lord's Day as a day of sacred rest, and of instruction and worship.

Overture No. 2, from the Presbytery of Siam, asking that a part of that Presbytery be set off and erected into a distinct Presbytery, on account of the wide extent of its field,

and the impossibility of securing, at the meetings of the Presbytery, the attendance of its more distant members.

It is recommended that the request be granted, and that the members of the Presbytery of Siam laboring in the North Laos Mission, with the Churches under their care, be, and hereby are, constituted a new Presbytery to be known as the Presbytery of North Laos; and that the officers of the present Presbytery of Siam be empowered to prescribe the lines of the new Presbytery and to designate the time and place of its first meeting, when the oldest member present shall preside at the opening session and preach the sermon.

Overture No. 3, from the First German Church of East Williamsburg, requesting to be transferred from the Presbytery of Nassau to the Presbytery of Brooklyn, to whose jurisdiction it more naturally belongs; together with certified copies of the action of both Presbyteries, consenting to the transfer.

It is recommended that the request be granted.

Overture No. 4, submitting the following question: "Is a regularly adjourned meeting of a Presbytery valid when held at the call of the Moderator during the sessions of the Synod, now that the Synod is a delegated body, and covers the entire State?"

The following answer is recommended: The Presbytery unquestionably has a right to adjourn when and where it may think best; but it is not advisable to adjourn to meet at the time and place of the meeting of the Synod, unless the business to be considered be particularly specified and be known to all its members, or is merely what is known as routine business.

It was made the first order for to-morrow morning to hear the report of the Committee on Judicial Business.

A recess was taken until half-past seven o'clock P. M.

Closed with prayer.

THURSDAY, October 23d, 7.30 o'clock P. M.

After the recess, in connection with appropriate devotional services, addresses on the subject of Foreign Missions were delivered, according to the previous arrangement.

Adjourned until to-morrow at nine o'clock A. M.

Closed with prayer.

FRIDAY, October 24th, 9 o'clock A. M.

The Synod met, and spent the first half hour in devotional services.

The calling of the roll was dispensed with.

The minutes of yesterday's sessions were read and approved.

It was made the second order of business this morning to hear the reports of the Committees appointed to attend the examinations in Union and Auburn Theological Seminaries.

The Moderator announced the following Committees, to report to the Synod next year:

ON SYSTEMATIC BENEFICENCE AND THE WORK OF THE CHURCH: *Ministers*—Rufus S. Green, D. D., Erskine N. White, D. D., Wilson Phraner, D. D., Henry A. Nelson, D. D., William M. Johnson, D. D., William A. Niles, D. D., Francis B. Wheeler, D. D., Herman C. Riggs, D. D.; *Elders*—Edward P. Durant, Daniel Waterman, Warner Van Norden, Stephen M. Clement, Alonzo Alden, Fred C. Lounsbury, Daniel Carpenter.

ON PLANS FOR EVANGELISTIC WORK: *Ministers*—George Alexander, D. D., Timothy G. Darling, D. D., T. Ralston Smith, D. D., Joseph K. Wight, Ninian B. Remick; *Elders*—James W. Mairs, Theodore S. Hubbard, Noah T. Clarke, Alpha D. Griswold.

ON PLANS FOR SUSTENTATION: *Ministers*—William Irvin, D. D., Erskine N. White, D. D., L. Merrill Miller, D. D., Edward G. Thurber, D. D., Samuel Jessup; *Elders*—Archibald McClure, Horace B. Silliman, Hon. James H. Loomis, James K. Penfield.

The Moderator was added to the Committee on Plans for Sustentation, and made its Chairman.

The order of the day was postponed.

The Annual Report of the Board of Trustees of Elmira College was presented, accepted, and ordered to be printed in the Appendix to the Minutes.

The Committee on the Endowment of Elmira College, through its Acting Chairman, Rev. J. Jermain Porter, D. D., presented a report, which was accepted, and the recommendations therein were adopted, as follows:

The report submitted last year made mention of an offer of \$25,000 from one of the trustees of the estate of Mr. Frederick Marquand, on condition that another sum of \$25,000 be raised.

The Committee is glad to report that this condition has been met from the following resources: The Elmira subscriptions, the Alumnae subscriptions, and the gift of the well-equipped observatory, valued at \$8,000, from the Elmira Academy of Sciences.

The Treasurer's report shows that the present productive endowment of the College is about \$83,000. There is also a scholarship fund of \$25,000, from the interest of which various sums are appropriated for needy students, largely devoted to the daughters of ministers.

This endowment, however, is no adequate provision for a College now doing splendid work, and which must be pushed forward to take rank with the first colleges in the land. The Synod of New York should, through this College, give to its daughters the educational advantages which it is undertaking to give to its sons. In the near future this College should have at least \$250,000 in addition to its present resources.

How shall we secure it? Your Committee suggests that an appeal be made especially to the elect ladies of the Church. There are in all parts of the State Christian ladies, who are the stewards of the Lord's bounty in large measure, and who love to give liberally to the various objects of Christian benevolence. How can our wealthy ladies better promote the permanent, far-reaching interests of our Church than by endowing Elmira College for the highest Christian culture of their own sex? We must educate our daughters for their life work, as we educate our sons for theirs. The time is just at hand when a College diploma will be a passport to a young lady for the better and higher positions of teachers. These positions are rapidly becoming so professional as to demand a College training. The prevailing sentiment of our Church is averse to the co-education of the sexes, especially in the older and better Colleges. We must, therefore, have at least one College of the highest class for our daughters.

Elmira is admirably situated for such a College, being almost the exact geographical center of the three great Presbyterian States of New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania. As a railroad center it is unsurpassed. The climate is mild, and the health record of the College has been extraordinarily high.

In view of these facts, your Committee recommends the following resolutions :

1. That the Synod approve the plan for the enlargement of the endowment of the College to at least \$250,000.
2. That it authorizes the College to make appeals to pastors, Churches, and individuals, throughout the bounds of the Synod, and recommends that pastors present the claims of this institution to the attention of the women of their Churches.
3. As benevolence is a grace, and the office work of the Holy Spirit is a necessity in all our work, it is recommended to our Churches to remember Elmira College on the day of prayer for Colleges.

On the recommendation of the Committee appointed to nominate Trustees and Examiners for Elmira College, the following persons were duly elected :

Trustees—Rev. Augustus W. Cowles, D. D., Rev. George C. Curtis, D. D., Rev. William Hogarth, D. D., Rev. Evert Van Slyck, Rev. William A. Niles, D. D., Rev. Isaac Jennings, Jr., Daniel W. McWilliams, to serve for three years.

Examiners—Rev. Hugh W. Torrence, Rev. Charles C. Hemenway, Rev. Stanley D. Jewell, to serve for three years; and to fill the vacancy occasioned by the decease of the Rev. James M. Platt, D. D., the Rev. John S. Bacon, to serve for one year.

The order of the day was taken up, when the Committee on Judicial Business reported :

Paper No. 1. An appeal by Alfred F. Vedder from a sentence of the Presbytery of Albany deposing him from the ministry and excommunicating him from the Church, after

a trial by the Presbytery on charges of immorality and crime, to wit, adultery and procuring an abortion.

The appellant had been tried for the latter offence twice in the criminal courts; first by the Court of Oyer and Terminer of the County of Albany, at which there was no verdict, and later by the Court of Sessions, to which the case was sent, and by which he was convicted and sentenced to three years' imprisonment in the State prison at Dannemora, where he now is.

A motion for a new trial is pending.

The appellant does not allege any irregularities in his trial before the Presbytery. He was regularly cited to answer, appeared by counsel of his own choice, and joined issue upon the charges.

To avoid the possible prejudicing of his case, the tabling and the prosecution of the charges against him were postponed to await the result of the criminal trial; and proceedings were instituted only after his conviction in the criminal court. By stipulation of the defendant, personally made, and acquiesced in by his counsel, the testimony taken on both of his trials in the criminal courts was read as the only testimony in the Church court.

The defendant's appeal rests upon four grounds, namely :

1. The admission of irrelevant and incompetent testimony.

As a matter of fact the Presbytery excluded all evidence not contained in the stenographic notes of the criminal trials; and that evidence was read under express stipulation at or before the trial that such evidence and such only should be admitted. Such consent precludes the subsequent exceptions of defendant.

2. That the Presbytery was prejudiced.

Of this there is no evidence, nor was any objection alleged at or before the trial; and if any prejudice existed and was known to the defendant before the trial, and he made no objection, he must be deemed to have waived it in the same manner as a party to a civil action waives objection to members of a jury if he does not challenge them when proposed.

3. That the testimony was inadequate to convict.

This ground of appeal lacks definiteness and specification as to the charges to which it applies, and is too defective and vague in its statements to afford any just ground for reopening the case; while the concurrent verdicts of both courts, the criminal and the ecclesiastical, create a strong presumption that the results of the trial were just and in the interests of righteousness.

4. On the general ground of the injustice of the sentence.

The conclusive answer to this is that if the defendant is guilty, the sentence of deposition and excommunication is obviously the proper one, and the only adequate and just sentence which the Presbytery could impose.

Your Committee therefore recommends that the appeal be not entertained.

The parties having been heard, by their respective counsel, in accordance with section 100 of the new Book of Discipline, the recommendation of the Committee, that the appeal be not entertained, was adopted.

The Committee further reported :

Paper No. 2. The appeal and complaint of Walter Bradshaw against the action of the Presbytery of Albany for refusing to entertain his complaint against the action of the Session of the Church of Princetown in directing the rebaptism of Edward F. Graham. The papers are in order and show the following facts, namely :

Edward F. Graham applied for admission to the communion of the Church of Princetown. He had been previously baptized in the Roman Catholic Church.

The Session voted to admit him to full communion upon his making a public profession of his faith and being baptized; taking such action upon the ground that baptism when administered by a minister of the Roman Catholic Church is invalid.

Against this action Mr. Bradshaw protested, and complained of it to the Presbytery of Albany upon the ground that the validity of Roman Catholic baptism has never been judicially questioned or denied by the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church, and that it is a principle and law of the Presbyterian Church, as established by its standards, that the sacrament of baptism is but once to be administered to any person.

The complaint came before the Presbytery of Albany, and on April 17, 1884, the Judicial Committee reported as follows:

The Committee to whom the complaint and appeal of Walter Bradshaw were referred, respectfully reports that there is no judicial decision of our Church upon the subject of Roman Catholic baptism, and in their judgment it is inexpedient for this Presbytery to entertain the complaint, especially in view of the relegation of this matter by the General Assembly to the decision of the Sessions. [See Minutes of General Assembly, 1875, page 515, etc.]

From this decision Mr. Bradshaw appeals, and complains to the Synod of New York of the action of the Presbytery as being unconstitutional and irregular, in that:

1. The appeal and complaint were denied, and the merits of the case declined by the Presbytery as to the subject matter of adjudication.

2. That mere deliverances of the General Assembly cannot properly be urged as authorizing unconstitutional decisions by inferior judicatories, or barring the right of appeal and complaint from such decisions.

3. That the decree of the Session to rebaptize Mr. Graham violated that principle and law of the Constitution which declares that the sacrament of baptism is but once to be administered; in that the Roman Catholic Church is a part of the visible Church of Christ and its baptism valid.

Such being the case, it will be seen that the question before the Synod is not the validity or the invalidity of Roman Catholic baptism, but whether there are sufficient grounds for censuring the Presbytery of Albany for declining to entertain the case, and whether the Presbytery shall be directed to issue the case and bring it to a decision.

Your Committee believes that the reasons given by the Presbytery of Albany for refusing to entertain the case are good and sufficient.

In view of the fact that the General Assembly has never given a judicial decision upon the validity of Roman Catholic baptism, but has expressly in terms relegated to the Sessions the decision of the question of the propriety of baptizing an applicant for Church membership coming from that body, it can certainly be no just ground of complaint against any Session that it acts in accordance with the directions of the highest judicatory of the Church; and it can be no sufficient ground for complaint against a Presbytery that it refuses to entertain such a complaint against a Session.

Your Committee therefore recommends that the appeal and complaint of Walter Bradshaw against the Presbytery of Albany be not entertained.

The parties having been heard by their respective counsel, the recommendation of the Committee, that the appeal and complaint be not entertained, was adopted unanimously.

Mr. Walter Bradshaw, through his counsel, Rev. Clarence W. Backus,

gave notice of an appeal from this decision of the Synod to the next General Assembly, as follows :

In the case of Elder Walter Bradshaw against the Session of the Princetown Church, the complainant hereby appeals to the General Assembly from the action of the Synod of New York, in that Roman Catholic baptism being valid, it was unconstitutional for the Session to require Mr. Graham to be rebaptized, [see Confession of Faith, chap. 28, sec. 7,] and the Synod should have so adjudged the case.

The Rev. Timothy G. Darling, D. D., and Elder Edward Wells were appointed to defend the action of the Synod before the General Assembly, in the matter of this appeal.

The Committees on Bills and Overtures and Judicial Business reported that they had no farther business to present.

The reports were accepted, and the Committees were discharged.

The Committee of Visitors to the Union Theological Seminary presented the following report, which was accepted :

The Committee appointed to attend the last annual examination of the Union Theological Seminary respectfully reports that it discharged the duty assigned it, and is happy to commend the institution to the confidence of the Church. Seven of the ten members of the Committee were present during either the whole or a part of the time, and were cordially welcomed, and aided in their work by all the members of the faculty. As the Synod is aware, Union Seminary is an independent corporation, owing allegiance, it is true, to the Presbyterian Church, but amenable to no ecclesiastical court. The presence of the Synod's Committee, therefore, at the annual examination, is purely a matter of courtesy. But the courtesy was gracefully exhibited on the part of all connected with the institution.

The examination was conducted by the Professors in their several departments of study, and evinced great ability and excellence. Manifestly the instruction in this institution is of the highest order of scholarship, and calculated thoroughly to equip young men for the work of the Christian ministry. Nor, so far as this examination revealed, is it less orthodox than able. The whole trend of the teaching in all the departments is thoroughly Calvinistic, and in hearty accord with the standards of the Presbyterian Church. The Committee joins with the entire Synod in the prayer that the able Professors connected with this institution may long be spared to fulfil the mission God has given them to accomplish.

Your Committee also rejoices to report the good degree of proficiency which the examination evinced on the part of many of the students of the Seminary. In some cases the recitations were even brilliant; while in others they were above mediocrity. At the same time the Committee was impressed with the fact that notwithstanding the superior instruction afforded, too many of the young men were not as appreciative of their privileges or as devoted to their duties as is devoutly to be desired. In these days of intelligence and culture, the Church has urgent need of an able and scholarly ministry. Moreover, the call of a young man to the sacred office implies the possession on his part of a spirit of consecration which should compel careful study as well as Christian zeal. The Committee therefore improves the occasion offered by this report to remind all the young men in this Synod who are in process of preparation for the ministry that the Church expects them to be diligent in study, as well as fervent in spirit, to the end that they may be workmen who need not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

As to the methods of examination your Committee desires to make a few suggestions. During each day of the examination week three classes were examined at the same time in their respective rooms. As a consequence the Committee was compelled to divide its members among the three, thus preventing every one of the Committee in attendance from hearing all the examinations. It would be far more satisfactory if a different order were adopted. Your Committee also suggests that the examinations would more accurately reveal the real scholarship of the students if they were, in part at least, written rather than oral; and if in the oral examinations fewer leading questions were propounded.

The Committee, in closing, reiterates its commendation of the Seminary to the confidence of the Church.

The Committee on Finance presented the following report, which was accepted, and the recommendation therein was adopted:

The Committee has examined the accounts of the Treasurer, and compared them with the accompanying vouchers; and it finds the same correct.

The balance reported on hand at the last meeting was,	\$607.55
Amount since collected for the fiscal year ending October 1st, 1883,	93.66
Amount collected to the date of the report for the fiscal year ending October 1st, 1884,	619.32
Total,	1,320.53
The payments during the year have been,	653.80
Balance in the Treasury at the date of the report,	\$666.73

Three Presbyteries had not paid the amounts apportioned to them, aggregating \$51.62. When these shall have paid, the amount in the Treasury will be, as for the beginning of the fiscal year, October 1st, \$718.35, which amount is applicable to the expenses of the coming year.

The Committee recommends that all the Presbyteries be careful to pay to the Treasurer the amounts of their annual apportionments before the end of each fiscal year, October 1st, in order that these sums may be included in the receipts of the current year.

The Committee of Visitors to Auburn Theological Seminary presented, through its Acting Chairman, Rev. Joseph R. Page, D. D., the following report, which was accepted:

In the discharge of its duties, the Committee was favorably impressed by what it saw and heard during the anniversary week.

The buildings and grounds are exceedingly attractive, and were in excellent condition. The examinations, both written and oral, in the different departments of study, were thorough and well sustained, and showed that the instructors had sought to guide the students into discriminating and sound thinking for themselves, rather than reliance upon any mere human authority.

It was impressed especially with the wise and efficient government of the Seminary, whereby it is brought so directly and closely into connection with most of the Presbyteries belonging to the Synod. Nineteen of these Presbyteries appoint severally two ministers and one layman, who constitute a Board of Commissioners having the entire control of the institution. They hold office for three years, and are so elected that each year the term of one in each Presbytery expires. This Board elects Trustees for a like term of three years, who are classified so that one class is chosen every year. The Trustees have charge of

the property of the Seminary, and a concurrent vote with the Commissioners in fixing the salaries of the Professors, and determining all other expenditures. This arrangement secures from these Presbyteries a deeper interest in the Seminary than would otherwise be felt, and effectually prevents any departure from the faith by the Seminary so long as the Presbyteries themselves are sound. The large attendance of the Commissioners, and their careful transaction of the business before them, clearly indicated their sense of the responsibility devolving upon them.

The election of Rev. James S. Riggs as "Adjunct Professor of Biblical Greek" gave great gratification to all in attendance upon the anniversary exercises, and makes a valuable accession to the Faculty of the Seminary.

The Committee on the Minutes of the General Assembly presented the following report, which was accepted, and the recommendation therein was adopted:

The Committee, having carefully examined the Minutes of the Assembly, calls the attention of the Synod to the following items:

1. The Presbytery of Chile, in South America, was recognized May 19th, 1884, and placed under the care of this Synod, (p. 23).
2. The Revised Book of Discipline and the Revision of Chapter X. of the Form of Government were declared to be adopted as a part of the Constitution of the Church, (p. 31); and it was ordered (p. 111) that no process heretofore commenced should abate by reason of this adoption, but should be issued and determined in accordance with the mode of procedure and provisions of the Revised Book of Discipline.
3. The Assembly commends the effort of the Board of Home Missions to secure a suitable Missionary to supervise the New England portion of our field, (pp. 37, 38).
4. The Assembly favors the adoption of plans of Synodical sustentation, suitable to the condition of the weak Churches, within the limits of the older and stronger Synods, (p. 41.) This Synod has already appointed a committee to consider this subject, at the suggestion of the Committee on Mission Work.
5. In the interests of the new Board of Aid for Colleges and Academies, the Assembly discourages all independent appeals made outside the bounds of that Presbytery or Synod in which the particular institution may be located; and the Churches are urged to take collections for this Board; as far as practicable, in the month of February, (p. 46).
6. The Assembly recommends the Woman's Executive Committee of Home Missions to permit such societies under its care as may so desire, to contribute to the cause of the Freedmen, and send the results to the Woman's Executive Committee to be forwarded to the Treasurer of the Board of Missions for Freedmen, (p. 64).
7. The Minutes of the Synods may be kept in printed form, without written records, on certain conditions, (p. 75).
8. A plan was adopted for the more convenient change of the place of meeting of a Synod, when such a change shall be found necessary, (p. 78).
9. Annual conventions in the interests of Foreign Missions were recommended to be held in the several Presbyteries and Synods, (p. 100).
10. The usual recommendations were adopted in regard to the observance of the "Week of Prayer" for the conversion of the world, and of the Day of Prayer for Colleges, Seminaries and Schools, (p. 111).
11. On page 42 there is a recommendation for the appointment of Committees of Women for Home Mission Work, and on page 73 of Standing Committees on Temperance. Both recommendations have been observed by this Synod.

The Committee recommends the adoption of the following resolution:

Resolved, That this Synod calls the special attention of its Presbyteries, Ministers and Churches to the work committed to the new Board of Aid for Colleges and Academies, and urges that the object be presented intelligently and earnestly, so that all in our congregations shall have the opportunity of contributing annually to this Board.

The Permanent Committee on Temperance, through its Acting Chairman, the Rev. Theodore L. Cuyler, D. D., presented the following report, which was accepted, and its recommendations were adopted :

Your Committee regrets that so few reports have been forwarded to it from either Presbyteries or Churches, and hopes that next year it shall be better supplied with this much-needed information. In several Presbyteries Institutes have been held for the promotion of Temperance, similar to those held in behalf of Sabbath Schools. As a fair specimen of these excellent agencies, the action of the Presbytery of Cayuga may be cited. A Temperance Institute was convened, during the month of September, under the direction of the Presbytery. Devotional services opened the conference, and reports were presented from Churches and Sunday Schools. As our chief hope lies in saving the young, the question was discussed, "What can be done in the Sunday School?" Then came those other urgent questions, "What is the responsibility of Churches and pastors?" and "How can this great responsibility be met most effectually?" "What can the Presbytery do to advance the good cause?" A Praise-service was held in the evening, and a "Question-drawer" was conducted by one of the Professors of the Auburn Theological Seminary. In some other Presbyteries the topics for discussion have embraced the introduction of Temperance School-books into our public schools, and the duties of Christians in regard to the public sale of intoxicants.

In reviewing the state of things through the Synod, your Committee notes these three facts: 1st, that there is a terrible apathy on this vital subject in too many of our Churches; 2d, that where the pastor is actively interested in this reform, his congregation comes to be interested also; and 3d, that the largest part of the practical Temperance work is performed by warm-hearted and godly women. Just as in the enterprise of Home and Foreign Missions, so in the movement against drinking-usages and dram-shops it is woman's strong arm that makes all the difference in the pull.

Your Committee ventures to make two or three practical suggestions:

1. This great work for Christ and imperilled souls ought to have its fountain-head in Christian hearts, and its organized force in every individual Church. There should be a Temperance wheel in every Church's machinery. Each pastor should set forth the causes, the curse and the cures of drunkenness, and endeavor to awaken a conscience against the cup of temptation among his congregation. Societies or committees to promote abstinence may do vast good; but they should be always under the control of the pastor and the Church Session. The religious aspects of this great question will then be brought to the front, and the nuisance of strolling charlatans and adventurers and dealers in "clap-trap" will be more effectually abated. Whatever else be omitted, there should be no omission of this colossal sin and sorrow in the prayers of the pulpit and the prayer meeting.

2. As one ounce of prevention is worth many tons of doubtful cure, it recommends the most diligent efforts to keep the children and youth from the first perilous touch of the intoxicating cup. Sabbath School teachers and parents may in this co-operate. Good Temperance books should have a place in every Sunday School library; and for this want our Presbyterian Board of Publication has provided, as well as several of the great National voluntary Societies. When services for the promotion of Temperance are held on the Lord's Day, they should be saturated with the letter and the spirit of the Gospel.

3. Your Committee urgently recommends that an offering or collection of money be made in our Churches to enable the General Assembly's Committee on Temperance to carry on its work without embarrassment. There is not the least danger that it will be overloaded with funds, or that other objects will thereby suffer. It is also hoped that during the coming year the number of Temperance Institutes will be multiplied among our Presbyteries.

The following were appointed the Committee on the Endowment of Elmira College: Rev. Wilson Phraner, D. D., Rev. Nathaniel W. Conkling, D. D., Daniel W. McWilliams, Rev. William A. Niles, D. D., Rev. George D. Meigs, Rev. J. Jermain Porter, D. D., Thompson C. Maxwell, Rev. J. Lovejoy Robertson, together with the following ladies: Miss Alice W. Knox, Miss Sarah M. Van Vleck, Mrs. Robert J. Swan, Mrs. William Alling.

The Committee to nominate the Permanent Committee on Temperance reported, recommending the following appointments: The Rev. Messrs. James H. Ecob, D. D., Samuel Dunham, Charles C. Wallace, D. D., Theodore L. Cuyler, D. D., Henry Ward, William H. Allbright, Francis B. Hall, George D. Meigs, George C. Yeisley, Hiram W. Congdon, David McLeod, J. Jermain Porter, D. D., John R. Lewis, J. Westby Earnshaw, William H. Bates, Peter D. Oakey, John M. Worrall, D. D., Erastus W. Twichell, Francis B. Wheeler, D. D., Pliny F. Sanborne, Herman C. Riggs, D. D., L. Merrill Miller, D. D., William A. Niles, D. D., Edward G. Thurber, D. D., William Reed, Robert L. Bachman, Rollin A. Sawyer, D. D.

The Committee farther recommended that the Rev. Theodore L. Cuyler, D. D., be the Chairman.

The report was adopted.

The Special Committee appointed last year to consider the Memorial of the Presbytery of Oroomiah, presented the following report:

The Committee, to whom was referred a Memorial from the Presbytery of Oroomiah, touching the relations of that body to the Synod, and especially touching certain defects in its constitution, respectfully reports, that it has considered carefully the statements and questions in the Memorial, and has had considerable consultation and correspondence with brethren in Persia and in this country.

In view of all the facts in the case, it does not seem strange that our brethren in Persia find it impracticable to put into immediate use and operation all the provisions of our Form of Government. As near an approximation to this as they find practicable should, the Committee thinks, be accepted by the Synod, in the hope that experience and advancing Christian intelligence, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, will gradually bring the Persian brethren to a cordial acceptance of all the essential and characteristic provisions of our Form of Government.

It therefore recommends that the Synod express its approval of the plan outlined in the Memorial, as follows: "That the Presbyterian Church recognize the Nestorian Presby-

teries as a part of the whole Church, receiving them on the basis of essential agreement, while allowing the irregularities that arise from their development out of the old Nestorian Church."

It farther recommends that the Oroomiah Presbytery be requested to formulate, as distinctly as possible, a Constitution of Presbytery, (Cnushya,) which either already exists, or which the Nestorian brethren would accept as "the basis of essential agreement," on which the Synod can ask the General Assembly to recognize them "as a part of the whole Church."

It also recommends that time be allowed for continued consultation and correspondence, to the end that the "irregularities" which the Church is asked to allow may be reduced to the smallest possible amount.

The report was adopted, and the Committee was continued for the purpose expressed in the final recommendation.

In connection with the report, a fraternal letter, dated Constantinople, September 20th, was read from the Rev. Henry A. Nelson, D. D., who had been appointed by the Committee to visit the Persian Mission, as authorized by the Synod at its last meeting.

The Stated Clerk was requested to send a suitable reply.

The following minute was adopted:

The Synod of New York, having heard with great pleasure the representatives of several of the Boards, records its hearty sympathy with all these agencies of the Church, and pledges itself to a hearty co-operation with them in their work, promising to remember them in prayer and by larger contributions.

It urges a more complete and thorough organization for work in the several Churches, and a wider diffusion of information by means of the publications of the Boards.

It believes that much may be done to promote efficiency by grouping the Churches of the larger Presbyteries where, at convenient points, conferences can be held to consider the work of the Church both at home and abroad.

A recess was taken until two o'clock P. M.

Closed with prayer.

FRIDAY, October 24th, 2 o'clock P. M.

The Synod met and was opened with prayer.

The following resolutions were adopted:

Resolved, 1. That this Synod approves the efforts of the Presbytery of Buffalo in behalf of the moral, educational, and civil condition of the Indians within its bounds.

2. That it approves the formation of Indian Rights Associations, whose object is to advance the interests of the Indians throughout the country.

3. That it regards with satisfaction, as constituting a very important movement, those

measures in Congress which contemplate abolishing the tribal relations of the Indians, and propose to divide their lands in severalty and to invest them with the advantages of citizenship.

The Ladies' Synodical Committee on Home Missions presented a report, which was accepted and ordered to be placed on file.

On the recommendation of the Nominating Committee the following were appointed the

LADIES' SYNODICAL COMMITTEE ON HOME MISSIONS.

Presbytery of Albany—Mrs. Henry March, Mrs. B. Frank Potter, Mrs. Isabella McGill.

Binghamton—Mrs. John Chatfield, Mrs. E. Hawley, Mrs. Howard Elmer, Mrs. A. F. Ibbotson.

Boston—Mrs. Charles C. Wallace, Miss E. M. Kimball, Mrs. A. Burrows, Miss E. L. Lewis.

Brooklyn—Mrs. D. R. James, Mrs. James M. Ham, Mrs. D. M. Miller, Mrs. F. E. H. Haines, Mrs. Oscar E. Boyd, Mrs. H. B. Jackson, Mrs. J. Sample, Miss J. E. Cook, Miss H. M. Wells.

Buffalo—Mrs. Henry Childs, Mrs. L. M. Kimball, Mrs. E. A. Skinner, Mrs. Martin D. Kneeland.

Cayuga—Mrs. E. A. Huntington, Mrs. L. T. Hamilton.

Champlain—Mrs. Joseph Gamble, Mrs. Chandler N. Thomas.

Chemung—Mrs. William E. Knox, Mrs. Franklin S. Howe.

Columbia—Mrs. George A. Howard, Mrs. George C. Yeisley.

Genesee—Mrs. Cassius H. Dibble, Mrs. Dugald D. McColl, Mrs. William W. Totheroh.

Genesee Valley—Mrs. William F. Wheeler, Mrs. Thomas Chattle, Mrs. R. O. Smith, Mrs. F. R. Eaton.

Geneva—Mrs. Thompson C. Maxwell, Miss Helen Hawley.

Hudson—Mrs. Charles Beattie, Mrs. Charles W. Cooper, Mrs. Francis M. Cummings.

Long Island—Mrs. Epher Whitaker, Mrs. Samuel Hunting, Miss Mary H. Howell, Mrs. P. R. Reilley, Miss Amelia Smith.

Lyons—Mrs. Horace Eaton, Mrs. John P. Richardson.

Nassau—Mrs. Lewis Lampman, Mrs. J. R. Mowbray, Miss F. N. McCormick.

New York—Mrs. Silas B. Brownell, Mrs. John Sinclair, Mrs. William F. Lee; Mrs. George D. Phelps, Mrs. M. F. C. Strong, Miss F. A. Dyer, Mrs. E. Crosby, Mrs. Wm. H. Wickham.

Niagara—Mrs. Daniel Clarke, Mrs. Robert Norton, Mrs. C. H. Fowler.

North River—Mrs. Isaac Brayton, Mrs. Hector Craig, Mrs. Frederick B. Savage.

Otsego—Mrs. C. G. Sanborne, Mrs. Horace H. Allen, Miss Catherine Roseboom.

Rochester—Mrs. Joseph R. Page, Mrs. William Alling, Mrs. Sarah J. Nichols, Mrs. Josiah E. Kittredge, Miss Frances E. Lauderdale, Mrs. Herman C. Riggs.

St. Lawrence—Mrs. L. Merrill Miller, Mrs. Charles Anthony, Miss P. T. Hubbard.

Steuben—Mrs. William A. Niles, Mrs. Frank Williams, Mrs. William H. Rice.

Syracuse—Mrs. M. C. Armstrong, Mrs. Gilbert Mollison, Mrs. John Hobbie, Mrs. Chauncey Bronson, Mrs. Allen Butler.

Troy—Mrs. James Borden, Mrs. E. N. Dauchy, Miss Lizzie Eddy.

Utica—Mrs. J. C. Gallup, Mrs. Frederick A. M. Brown, Miss Sarah Gilbert, Mrs. George Curran.

Westchester—Mrs. Thornton M. Niven, Jr., Mrs. Stanton Cady, Mrs. Edgar L. Heermance, Miss Olivia B. Walsh, Miss Elizabeth Cristy, Mrs. Sanford R. Knapp.

The following minute was adopted:

In view of the very important service rendered to the Churches by the American Tract Society in publishing and circulating a large body of evangelical literature; in view of the aid it has afforded to Foreign Missions, and to work in behalf of our immigrant population by printing in 146 languages; in view of its grants of publications to the inmates of prisons and humane institutions, to soldiers and sailors, and for distribution by Chaplains, Home Missionaries, and others in needy fields; and in view of its continued and vigorous prosecution of missionary colportage in the South and West, and especially in behalf of the immigrants at Castle Garden and elsewhere,

Resolved, That the Synod cordially commends the American Tract Society to the confidence, co-operation and support of its Churches and people.

The Committee on Legal Steps presented the following report, which was accepted and adopted:

The Committee appointed by the Synod at its second annual session, held in October, 1883, to take such legal steps as the consolidation of the Synods may have rendered necessary, respectfully reports as follows:

The Enabling Act of the General Assembly declares and provides that the Synods of Albany, Central New York, Geneva, Long Island, New York, and Western New York are consolidated, and constituted into the Synod of New York; and such last named Synod, as thus constituted, is, by the Act, declared to be the legal successor of the above named several constituent Synods, and, as such, entitled to the possession and enjoyment of all the rights and franchises and liable to the performance of all the duties of those Synods.

The first meeting of the Synod of New York, as constituted in accordance with the Enabling Act above referred to, was held in October, 1882; and at that meeting the Committee on Organization, composed of the several Committees appointed by the previously existing constituent Synods, recommended the appointment of a Committee to take such legal steps as the consolidation of the Synods may have rendered necessary, (Minutes of 1882, pages 13 and 14.)

In accordance with this recommendation a Committee was appointed which was, however, for various reasons, unable to act; and at the next annual meeting the undersigned were appointed, (Minutes of 1882, page 17, and 1883, pages 51, 54.)

The Committee was duly organized and was furnished by the Stated Clerk of the Synod with the necessary information relating to the subject referred to it, and, after full consideration, came to the conclusion that in order to give proper legal effect to the consolidation of the Synods as contemplated and provided for by the Enabling Act of the General Assembly, it was desirable and requisite that the existing Synod of New York, as constituted under the Enabling Act, should be incorporated by an Act of the Legislature of the State of New York, with proper provisions for the protection and preservation of the property, rights and interests of the several Synods which have been united and continued under the name of the Synod of New York.

The Committee accordingly prepared the draft of an Act of Incorporation, which, although not introduced into the Legislature until near the close of the last session, was, by the prompt and efficient action of Hon. John I. Gilbert in the Senate, and Hon. Lucius L. Van Allen in the Assembly, put on its passage through both branches of the Legislature, and became a law May 23, 1884.

A copy of this Act, being Chapter 340 of the Laws of New York of 1884, entitled "An Act to Incorporate the Synod of New York," duly certified by the Secretary of State, is annexed to this report, and by its enactment all the legal steps required to perfect the consolidation of the Synods have been completed.

WM. ALLEN BUTLER,

ERSKINE N. WHITE,

JNO. E. PARSONS,

Committee.

ACT OF INCORPORATION.

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. By the action of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States, the Synods of Albany, Central New York, Geneva, Long Island, New York and Western New York, with the several Presbyteries under their charge, having been united, and as united having been continued under the name of the Synod of New York, Henry J. Van Dyke, John Hall, Erskine N. White, Charles Hawley, Henry A. Nelson, James B. Shaw, Tryon Edwards, T. Ralston Smith, Archibald McClure, Louis Chapin and Edward Wells and their associates, as members of the said Synod, and their successors, are hereby created a body corporate by the name of "The Synod of New York."

§ 2. The said corporation shall in law be capable of taking, for religious, educational, benevolent and charitable purposes, by gift, devise, bequest, grant or purchase, and of holding, conveying and otherwise disposing from time to time, of real and personal estate, provided that it shall not hold for its general purposes real estate, the yearly income produced by which shall exceed one hundred thousand dollars.

§ 3. The several Synods hereinbefore mentioned are continued in the Synod of New York, which shall include all the Presbyteries under the charge of the several Synods hereinbefore mentioned. The work to be prosecuted by it shall be the same as if done by the said several Synods, and it shall be vested with all property belonging to them, or either of them, to be held by it for the purposes and upon the trusts for which said property has been or now is held by them. The said Synods are hereby empowered to turn over such property to the said corporation, and to execute all instruments necessary for the purpose.

§ 4. All real and personal property heretofore or which shall be granted, given, devised or bequeathed to any Presbytery under the charge of the Synod of New York, which Presbytery shall not be separately incorporated, may be received and held, conveyed or otherwise disposed of for such Presbytery by the corporation by this act created, and the said corporation shall in law be capable of taking real and personal property, and of holding, conveying and otherwise disposing of the same as trustee, for any of the Presbyteries under the charge of the Synod of New York, provided that it shall not hold for any one Presbytery real estate, the annual income produced by which shall exceed twenty-five thousand dollars.

§ 5. The management of the affairs and property of the said corporation shall be vested in the officers of the Synod of New York, constituted as such in accordance with the usages of the Presbyterian Church in the United States, or as may be provided by by-laws which may be made and which the Synod of New York hereby created is hereby authorized to make from time to time.

§ 6. The said corporation shall possess the general powers, rights and privileges of

corporations for religious, educational, benevolent or charitable purposes which have been conferred, or which from time to time may be conferred by any laws of this State.

§ 7. This act shall take effect immediately.

The cordial thanks of the Synod were tendered to the Committee on Legal Steps, and to the Members of the Legislature whose valuable services are recognized in the report.

No report having been received from the Elmira College Legal Committee, Elders the Hon. James H. Loomis, Edward P. Durant, and Edward Wells were appointed a Committee to inquire whether, in view of the incorporation of the Synod, the continuance of the said Legal Committee is necessary.

The Committee on Sunday School Work presented the following report, which was accepted, and the recommendations therein were adopted:

Within the bounds and under the care of the Synod there are 775 Sunday Schools, in which are found 3,932 officers, 12,722 teachers, and 132,042 scholars, making a total of 148,696, an increase of seven per cent. over the last year.

According to the statistics of the Secretary of Sabbath School Work, the average attendance at the services of the schools was 92,097; 32,109 are in the habit of attending the public worship of the Lord's house; and 2,271 were received into the full communion of the Church. The schools which report the teaching of the Shorter Catechism number 297, while 380 Schools use the Westminster Helps. Of the \$23,340 contributed to benevolent objects, \$13,741 were to the Boards of our Church. The libraries contain 110,365 volumes.

In these statistics the Committee finds much that is encouraging, and desires to put on record, as the expression of the Synod, its high appreciation of the faithfulness of the earnest workers in this most important department of Christian labor, and to bid them God-speed for the future.

At the same time the Committee calls attention to several points, which, while not discouraging, clearly indicate where marked improvement is possible. If these statistics be correct, about four out of five of our enrolled scholars do not attend the services of the Church. It thus appears that large numbers—four-fifths—of our children and youth are making the Sunday School a substitute for the Church. If this be true the Committee feels that the evil is a most serious and vital one, and, farther, that if the evil can not be corrected, it would be better to abolish the entire Sunday School system, except in so far as the work is prosecuted in the midst of non-churchgoing populations. The Church, with its Sabbath services, is a divine institution. To substitute the human for the divine is to pave the way for untold evils. Let the Sunday Schools be abolished rather than train up a generation of non-churchgoers.

Not quite two per cent. of the scholars taught in our Sunday Schools were led during the year to profess their faith in Christ. Undoubtedly a considerable proportion of the entire number were already Christians. Still, when it is remembered that childhood and youth are the most impressible periods of life, it would seem that a larger percentage than this might reasonably be expected.

The Shorter Catechism is taught in only one-third of our schools, while the admirable lesson-helps issued by our own Board of Publication find a place in only one-half of them. There are no statistics to show how largely these lesson papers take the place of the Bible

itself in the weekly class-work. Nor is there anything to show the character and worth of the "helps" used in the other half of our schools, or the kind of books upon the shelves of our Sunday School libraries. The Committee feels that there are grave dangers, in both respects, of false religious and ethical teachings.

In view of the above facts the Committee offers the following recommendations:

1. That Presbyteries be charged either directly, or through their Committees, to give to their Sunday Schools a more careful supervision.
2. That Church Sessions be directed to take under their care and control the management of their schools, giving to them their official guidance and personal co-operation, taking special pains to provide for them qualified teachers.
3. That the Bible Correspondence School, conducted by Rev. James A. Worden, D. D., our Sabbath School Secretary, be heartily commended, and the attention of pastors and superintendents be called to it with a view to the formation of such a school in every congregation.
4. That the Westminster Series of Lesson Helps be commended to all of our schools to the exclusion of irresponsible and inferior helps; that the Shorter Catechism be made a part of the lesson study; and that the Bible be the text-book in the hands of the class during the school-hour.
5. That especial care be given by Sessions and officers that attendance at the Sunday School be never made a substitute for attendance upon the public worship of the Church.
6. That parents be exhorted to bring up their children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. The home, like the Church, is a divine institution, and parents do their children an irreparable wrong who transfer parental duties to the shoulders of Sunday School teachers.
7. That increased effort and more earnest prayer be directed during the coming year to this, the most hopeful of all our departments of Christian labor, to the end that our children and youth may know Christ and the joy of His salvation.

On the recommendation of the Nominating Committee the following were appointed as Visitors to the Union and Auburn Theological Seminaries:

UNION SEMINARY: *Ministers*—Timothy G. Darling, D. D., Richard P. H. Vail, D. D., William Irvin, D. D., John P. Egbert; *Elders*—Walter B. Crane, Thompson C. Maxwell, John Otto.

AUBURN SEMINARY: *Ministers*—Joseph E. Nassau, D. D., Herman C. Riggs, D. D., L. Merrill Miller, D. D., Edward G. Thurber, D. D.; *Elders*—George C. Buell, Franklin Williams, John G. K. Truair.

The Rev. L. Merrill Miller, D. D., was appointed Chairman of the Committee on the Condition of the Churches and Mission Work within the bounds of the Synod.

The Committee appointed to inquire whether it is necessary to continue the Elmira College Legal Committee, reported that as the incorporation of the Synod fully protects its rights and interests in Elmira College, the services of said Committee are no longer required, and recommended that it be discharged.

The report was adopted.

The Committee on the Place of the Next Meeting reported that a cordial invitation had been received from the First Church of Troy, and recommended that it be accepted.

The report was adopted.

The Rev. Kerr C. Anderson, D. D., pastor of the First Church of Troy, the pastors of the other Churches in that city, and an elder from each Church, were appointed a Committee of Arrangements for the next meeting of the Synod.

On the recommendation of the Committee on the Place of the Next Meeting, the following Standing Rule was adopted to take the place of the present provision referring to the same subject:

The Moderator and the Stated and Permanent Clerks shall be a Standing Committee, to report, from year to year, on the place of the next meeting of the Synod.

The Committee appointed to propose such changes in the Standing Rules as are necessary on account of the Synod having become a delegated body, presented the following report, which was adopted:

Insert, after Rule II., a new rule to read as follows:

Each Presbytery shall, at its stated meeting next preceding the meeting of the Synod, and, if possible, not later than two weeks before such meeting, elect the number of delegates to which it is entitled, together with an equal number of alternates, as prescribed by the organic rule under which the Synod is constituted, namely:

“The Synod of New York shall be composed of equal delegations of Ministers and Ruling Elders from each Presbytery in the following proportion: each Presbytery, the number of whose ministers and Churches taken together is not more than 14, shall send one minister and one elder; each Presbytery, containing more than 14 and not more than 28 ministers and Churches taken together, shall send two ministers and two elders; and so in like proportion for every additional number of 14 ministers and Churches taken together, or for the fraction thereof; *provided*, that no Presbytery shall be entitled to send more than ten ministers and ten elders.”

Substitute for Rule III. the following:

The Stated Clerk of each Presbytery shall send to the Stated Clerk of the Synod, at least one week before the annual meeting of the Synod, an official report of the delegates and alternate delegates elected by the Presbytery to represent it at the Synod; and from such report shall be made up the official roll of the Synod.

At the calling of the roll of the Synod at its first session, the names of all delegates who have been officially reported to represent the Presbyteries shall be called, and those not responding, either personally or by alternates officially reported, shall be marked as absent.

When alternate delegates appear in place of their principals regularly appointed, such delegates shall report in person to the Stated Clerk of the Synod, and their names shall be substituted upon the official roll for those of their principals.

Duplicate lists of delegates shall be sent by the Stated Clerks of the Presbyteries to the Chairman of the Committee of Arrangements.

Amend Rule IV. so that it shall read :

The Stated and Permanent Clerks, and the Chairmen of Committees appointed at a previous session to report to the Synod, shall have the privileges of the floor.

Ministers of other Synods, and of bodies in regular correspondence with the General Assembly, may be elected corresponding members; and the members nominating them shall report immediately to the Stated Clerk, in writing, the names of such ministers, in full, their Synodical or equivalent ecclesiastical relations, and their post-office addresses.

Amend Rule XIV., by inserting after the word "salaries," the words: "the traveling expenses of the Stated and Permanent Clerks in attending the sessions of the Synod."

The following resolution was adopted unanimously :

Resolved, That the thanks of the Synod are due, and are hereby rendered, to the various railway companies which have extended to its delegates the courtesy of reduced rates; to the trustees of this Church, for the use of their ample and convenient building; to the pastor of the North Church, the pastors of the other Churches of Buffalo, and the elders, whose faithful and skillful fulfillment of their duties as a Committee of Arrangements has contributed so essentially to the success and comfort of its business sessions; to the choir, for its very acceptable services; to the families who have so generously welcomed the Synod to their homes and hospitality; to the ladies of the Presbyterian Churches of Buffalo, for the bright social reunion and bountiful entertainment of last Wednesday evening; and to the city newspapers, for their very satisfactory reports of its meetings; and that these thanks are rendered, not as the formal observance of historic precedents, but as the hearty utterance of honest feeling.

The Rev. Messrs. Isaac G. Ogden, Allen F. De Camp, Wilson Phraner, D. D., and Elder Edgar A. Spencer, delegates elect, communicated reasons for their absence, which were sustained.

The Treasurer was authorized to pay the bills for the incidental expenses of the Synod.

It was ordered that the names of absent delegates be recorded, as follows :

Presbytery of Albany : Elders—Chauncey P. Beecher, Walter B. Goold, Edgar A. Spencer.

Binghamton : Ministers—Isaac G. Ogden, William H. Gill; Elders—Franklin Edgerton, George Griswold.

Boston : Ministers—Charles C. Wallace, D. D., Robert Court, D. D., Valentine A. Lewis, Andrew Burrows; Elders—W. D. Cochrane, James Dickie, F. M. Victor, Stephen Brown.

Brooklyn : Minister—Thomas A. Nelson.

Champlain : Elder—Roswell O. Barber.

Chemung : Elder—Walter Dense.

Columbia : Minister—Edward Stratton; Elders—Jeremiah Day, Ezra Sherrell.

Genesee Valley : Elder—A. B. Webster.

Long Island : Elders—Selah B. Strong, Charles S. Havens.

Lions : Elder—Albert F. Cressey.

Vassau : Elder—G. S. Taylor.

New York: Ministers—John Hall, D. D., Thomas S. Hastings, D. D., Allen F. De Camp; Elders—Albert N. Brown, John Sloane, Thomas Bond, William A. Wheelock, Birdseye Blakeman, Mancor M. Backus, Kiliaen Van Rensselaer.

Niagara: Elder—M. P. Godfrey.

North River: Elders—David B. Abbey, Henry W. Peters, Alfred B. Smith.

Otsego: Elder—John A. Cowan.

St. Lawrence: Elder—S. S. Hoyt.

Troy: Ministers—William M. Johnson, D. D., John Tatlock, D. D., Teunis S. Hamlin; Elders—Francis G. Crosby, James McCoy, Lysander Button.

Utica: Minister—Henry Darling, D. D.; Elders—David Everest, Lewis A. Sherrill.

Westchester: Minister—Wilson Phraner, D. D.; Elders—William H. Parsons, Thomas G. Ritch, William H. Foster.

The Committee on Leave of Absence presented the following report, which was accepted:

The Committee respectfully reports that its members were unanimously of the opinion:

1. That the delegates being primarily responsible to their respective Presbyteries for their diligence and faithfulness, the Committee had no power to excuse any from attendance, except in view of contingencies which might arise during the sessions of the Synod.

2. That in accepting the responsibilities of delegates, ministers and elders obliged themselves to remain until the close of the meeting, unless unforeseen circumstances should render it imperative that they be excused before that time. Arrangements of a social or personal nature, made on the unauthorized supposition that the Synod would adjourn on Thursday night, or at Friday noon, must of course give way before the necessity of a farther continuance of its sessions, or else the Synod might at any moment be dissolved in a disorderly and injurious way.

In fidelity to these convictions the Committee refused many applications for leave of absence, and granted such leave to the following members:

Presbytery of Albany: Ministers—Timothy G. Darling, D. D., Charles Wood, John D. Countermine; Elder—Samuel N. Bacon.

Binghamton: Elders—Henry F. Benton, Bartholomew G. McCabe, M. D.

Boston: Minister—Robert D. Sproull; Elder—John Gilchrist.

Brooklyn: Elder—William W. Wickes.

Buffalo: Minister—William Waith; Elders—Robert M. Mateer, Theodore S. Hubbard, Melvin Montgomery.

Cayuga: Elder—William H. Van Sickle.

Champlain: Minister—Peter J. H. Myers.

Chemung: Ministers—Alexander O. Peloubet, Charles C. Carr; Elder—Adna Ayers.

Chile: Minister—Alexander M. Merwin.

Columbia: Minister—Benjamin Parsons.

Genesee: Ministers—John C. Long, William W. Totheroh; Elders—Charles K. Ward, Henry P. Ellinwood.

Geneva: Elders—Noah T. Clarke, John Monroe, Edwin D. Mead, Baxter M. Chatham.

Hudson: Elders—Albert A. Seymour, M. D., Robert Smith.

Lyons: Elders—William H. Kent, Henry M. Clark.

Nassau: Minister—James C. Hume; Elder—Samuel F. Horsey.

New York: Minister—Henry T. McEwen; Elders—Ezra M. Kingsley, Warner Van Norden.

Niagara: Minister—Edwin Allen; Elder—William F. Evans.

North River: Elder—John Dales.

Otsego: Ministers—James H. Robinson, Frank W. Townsend; Elder—Robert Oliver.

Rochester: Elder—Loren J. Ames, M. D.

St. Lawrence: Elder—George R. Bell.

Steuben: Ministers—Lawrence M. Stevens, John S. Bacon; Elder—Orton O. Laine.

Syracuse: Ministers—David Torrey, D. D., David I. Biggar, Alfred H. Fahnestock; Elders—D. Henry Gowing, John G. K. Truair.

Troy: Minister—Robert Barbour; Elder—Thomas A. Collins.

Utica: Ministers—Franklin A. Spencer, Lewis R. Webber; Elder—Myron M. Allen.

Westchester: Elder—Edmund S. Mills.

The roll was called, and the following members were recorded as having withdrawn from the sessions of the Synod without its permission:

Presbytery of Albany: Minister—Isaac O. Rankin; Elders—Arthur M. Peck, Robert Miller.

Binghamton: Minister—Stephen G. Hopkins.

Buffalo: Minister—William L. Austin.

Cayuga: Elder—William A. Magee.

Champlain: Elder—Charles S. Judd.

Columbia: Elder—Dwight P. Hitchcock.

Genesee: Minister—Cassius H. Dibble; Elder—Hugh T. Brooks.

Genesee Valley: Elder—William F. Wheeler.

Geneva: Ministers—Hugh W. Torrence, Lewis H. Morey.

Hudson: Minister—Fenwick T. Williams; Elders—Samuel C. Van Vliet, Jr., William Van Wagenen.

Lyons: Minister—William H. Bates.

New York: Ministers—James D. Wilson, D. D., James H. Hoadley, Edward M. Deems.

Niagara: Minister—Orson L. White; Elder—William Glover.

North River: Ministers—Irving Magee, D. D., Frederick B. Savage.

Otsego: Minister—Henry U. Swinnerton, Ph. D.; Elder—Justus Van Deusen.

Rochester: Minister—William H. Millham; Elders—Theodore A. Drake, Aaron P. Lawrence, Jeremiah B. Whitbeck, Edgar Benedict.

St. Lawrence: Ministers—Thomas Dobbin, George B. Stevens, Ph. D.; Elder—George B. Massey.

Syracuse: Ministers—Marcus N. Preston, Charles F. Janes; Elder—Heman D. Fulton.

Utica: Ministers—Samuel Jessup, Edwin H. Dickinson.

The minutes of this day's sessions were read and approved.

The Synod adjourned to meet in the First Church, in the City of Troy, on the third Tuesday (the 20th day) of October, A. D. 1885, at half-past seven o'clock p. m.

Closed with prayer, praise, and the Apostolic Benediction.

J. WILFORD JACKS,

Permanent Clerk.

T. RALSTON SMITH,

Stated Clerk.

APPENDIX.

I. PASTORAL LETTER.

To each of its Presbyteries and Churches the Synod of New York sendeth greeting:

Beloved in the Lord, our prayer to God is "That He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might by His Spirit in the inner man; that Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; and to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God."

Upon the Presbytery, more than upon any other of our Church judicatories, devolve duties the most important and solemn. It has power "to examine and license candidates for the holy ministry; to ordain, install, remove, and judge ministers." It is therefore responsible not simply for the intellectual standing, but for the doctrinal soundness and Christian character of the ministry. "It is highly reproachful to religion, and dangerous to the Church, to intrust the holy ministry to weak and ignorant men." It is a far greater reproach and an evil whose consequences cannot be measured this side of eternity, to have in our pulpits men who preach "another gospel," and are not examples of holy living unto their flocks. Especially in these days of skeptical thought and of worldly-mindedness does it become imperative, in the interest of a pure religion, to "lay hands suddenly on no man."

The Presbytery has power also "to visit particular Churches, for the purpose of inquiring into their state, and redressing the evils that may have arisen in them; to unite or divide congregations, at the request of the people, or to form or receive new congregations, and in general to order whatever pertains to the spiritual welfare of the Churches under its care." Let our Presbyteries take a higher and a more Scriptural view of the duty devolving upon them of episcopal oversight. Our Churches should have, in accordance with God's word, pastors, and not stated supplies hired by the year. An active interest should be manifested in congregations unable to command the services of a pastor. In some instances they can be grouped under one pastorate; in others, a little aid, a kindly sympathy, a temporary supply until permanent arrangements can be effected, will keep alive or kindle into new warmth the flickering flame. The tendency of the times is towards the cities. Our city Churches are largely recruited from the young men who have grown to manhood in the country. The good accomplished by these smaller rural Churches cannot be measured by the increase of their members. In many cases they are slowly dying simply because of the change of population. Nevertheless, they deserve the fostering care of Presbytery, if on no other ground than as recruiting stations for the stronger Churches. The Synod therefore exhorts its Presbyteries to greater earnestness in the care of their weaker congregations.

This episcopal oversight ought to be so extended as to include all of our Churches. Why should so many congregations fail year after year, either wholly or in part, in aiding the great missionary work of the Church? Would such be the case were the Presbytery faithful in the discharge of duty? Most urgently do we exhort each Presbytery to a prayerful consideration of its duty in this profoundly important matter, and to the adoption of

such means and the use of such wise authority as will secure, so far as possible, from each Church a yearly contribution to each of our Church Boards.

The Synod would in no wise be unmindful of the constitutional rights of the individual congregation; but, in the enlarged Presbyterian oversight just urged, there needs be no interference with these rights. On the contrary they are the more securely established, when the Presbytery also exercises the powers conferred by our Form of Government upon it.

With its greeting to the Churches the Synod would suggest certain thoughts, of the profoundest importance, for their most serious consideration.

The Session of the Church "is charged with maintaining the spiritual government of the congregation," and is to concert the best measures for promoting its spiritual interests. This is a solemn responsibility, which the Synod doubts not the elders fully realize. Still it will not be unprofitable to note a few points of special moment:

1. The Session has grave duties to perform in connection with those already members of the Church. It must watch over them in the Lord. They should be trained to Christian work. Backsliders should be reclaimed. The wicked should be shown the wickedness of their ways to the end that they may be saved. The incorrigible should be excluded that the purity of the Church may be preserved.

2. The Session owes to the children of the Church a duty which must not be neglected. They have a right to Christian Baptism, which should be urged upon all parents. They have a right to Christian instruction. In this the Session should have the guidance, thus controlling its Sabbath Schools and Bible Classes, appointing their officers and teachers (or having the power of veto), determining their course of study, supervising their libraries, periodicals and helps, and exercising an active management in all their affairs.

3. The Session owes to the Saviour, the Great Head of the Church, the duty of keeping its members informed as to the work of the Church, and of giving to them the privilege of hastening on its final victory.

To this end the Monthly Concert should have a place in every congregation, where the work of the Church throughout the world, both in our own land and in other countries, can be rehearsed, and the blessing of the Most High invoked upon it. Our Missionary periodicals should be circulated as largely as possible. Sermons should be preached on the work of our Boards, for both the encouragement and the instruction of the people. It is an inspiration for any man to know how grandly the army of the Lord is marching on to final victory.

The people need only to be taught these things to arouse the desire to take part in them. Let the Session see to it that they are not denied the privilege. Every Church should have a plan of Systematic Beneficence. Proportionate giving—"as God hath prospered you,"—should be urged upon each individual as the solemn requirement of the Lord Himself. Weekly offerings, as a part of the worship of God's House, should be the end towards which every Church should aim. "Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store as God hath prospered him." Thus speaks the Word.

4. The Session owes a duty to the impenitent within the reach of the Church's influence. God is ready to bless loving labor for souls. Let each Church do its utmost to make known the riches of divine grace. Lead your people on in wise and earnest evangelistic effort.

The Synod would add a few words of affectionate exhortation to the members of its Churches. Remember, dear brethren, that you are bought with a price, even the precious blood of Christ. Remember that the glory of God is the chief end of your being. Remember that the Father is glorified in your bearing much fruit. Be true to your Saviour. Be loyal to His Church. Dwell together in unity. Love the brethren. Study the Word. Forget not the closet. Neglect not the family altar. Train your children in the

ways of God. Early inspire in them a love for the public worship of His house. Remember the Sabbath Day to keep it holy, thus bearing testimony against the increasing desecration of the sacred rest day. Be generous in your gifts to the Lord's work. Freely ye have received, freely give. Ask yourselves in the spirit of consecration, "how much owe I to my Lord?" and then set apart a certain proportion, a definite percentage of your income, to the cause of beneficence. Lastly, pray; pray meaningly, earnestly, in the closet, at the family altar, in the social meeting, for the outpouring of the blessed Spirit, that He may baptize us all, pastors, elders, and people anew, that He may endue us with power from on high, and thus make the coming months rich in the harvest of precious souls, and full of heavenly blessings to ourselves.

"The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Ghost be with you all. Amen."

JOHN MCC. HOLMES,

Moderator.

T. RALSTON SMITH,

Stated Clerk.

II. REPORTS OF THE PRESBYTERIES.

I. THE PRESBYTERY OF ALBANY consists of fifty-five ministers and forty-seven churches, and has under its care one licentiate and thirteen candidates for the ministry.

Ministers have been received as follows:

Rev. James B. Campbell, from the Classis of Albany, and Rev. James W. Johnston, from the Presbytery of Westchester, December 20th, 1883;

Rev. Oliver Hemstreet, from the Presbytery of Troy, January 26th, 1884;

Rev. DeWitt G. Rockefeller, from the Classis of Illinois, Rev. James L. Harrington, from the Montpelier Association of Congregational Ministers, Rev. Robert A. Davison, from the Presbytery of Westchester, and Rev. Samuel Dodd, from the Presbytery of Long Island, April 15th, 1884;

Rev. James Gardner, D. D., from the Presbytery of St. Lawrence, September 16th, 1884.

Licentiates received:

Ezekiel Dëyo Van Dyck, from the Classis of Long Island, December 20th, 1883;

John D. Paxton, from the Presbytery of New York, January 26th, 1884;

Jacob F. Becker, from the Presbytery of Lehigh, June 4th, 1884.

Licensed:

Charles H. Tyndall, April 16th, 1884;

Henry Schlosser, June 4th, 1884.

Candidates taken under the care of the Presbytery:

Herbert C. Hinds and Arthur S. Wright, October 17th, 1883;

George K. Fraser, June 4th, 1884.

Pastoral relations dissolved:

December 20th, 1883, between Rev. Peter Stryker, D. D., and the First Church, Saratoga Springs, and between Rev. George Alexander and the East Avenue Church, Schenectady;

January 2d, 1884, between Rev. Edward Stratton and the Church of Greenbush;
 January 15th, 1884, between Rev. Albert F. Vedder and the Church of West Milton.

Ordinations:

Ezekiel Deyo Van Dyck, January 15th, 1884;
 John D. Paxton, February 29th, 1884;
 Jacob F. Becker, July 9th, 1884.

Installations:

Rev. James B. Campbell, over the Church of Batchellerville, January 4th, 1884;
 Rev. Ezekiel Deyo Van Dyck, over the Church of Carlisle, January 15th, 1884;
 Rev. John D. Paxton, over the East Avenue Church, Schenectady, February 29th, 1884;
 Rev. Oliver Hemstreet, over the West End Church, Albany, April 24th, 1884;
 Rev. Robert A. Davison, over the Church of Greenbush, May 14th, 1884;
 Rev. James L. Harrington, over the Church of Sand Lake, May 28th, 1884;
 Rev. De Witt G. Rockefeller, over the Church of New Scotland, May 29th, 1884;
 Rev. Samuel Dodd, over the Church of Stepentown, May 7th, 1884;
 Rev. Jacob F. Becker, over the Church of Rensselaerville, July 9th, 1884.

Ministers dismissed:

Rev. Francis Dyer, to the Presbytery of West Jersey, Rev. Peter Stryker, D. D., to the Presbytery of St. Paul, and Rev. George Alexander, to the Presbytery of New York, December 20th, 1883;

Rev. Edward Stratton, to the Presbytery of Columbia, February 26th, 1884;
 Rev. J. McClusky Blayney, D. D., to the Presbytery of Ebenezer, June 4th, 1884;
 Rev. Clarence W. Backus, to the Presbytery of Rochester, September 16th, 1884.

Licentiate dismissed:

David B. Minor, to the Presbytery of Columbia, December 20th, 1883;
 Henry Schlosser, to the Presbytery of Chester, September 16th, 1884.

Rev. Albert F. Vedder was deposed from the ministry and excommunicated from the Church, and his name was dropped from the roll, June 17th, 1884.

Rev. Montgomery S. Goodale, D. D., died March 7th, 1884; aged 78.

The Church of Rensselaerville, by order of the Synod, was enrolled December 20th, 1883.

II. THE PRESBYTERY OF BINGHAMTON consists of twenty-six ministers and twenty-nine churches, and has under its care three licentiate and three candidates for the ministry.

The following minister has been received:

September 17th, 1884, Rev. Lewis H. Bahler, from the Classis of Newark, N. J.

Pastoral relations have been dissolved as follows:

April 16th, 1884, between Rev. Charles S. Dewing and the Church of Union;
 September 17th, 1884, between Rev. William A. Beecher and the Church of Conklin.

Installation:

September 24th, 1884, Rev. Lewis H. Bahler, over the Church of Preble.

Dismissed:

October 19th, 1883, Rev. Richard A. Clark, to the Presbytery of Chippewa.

April 16th, 1884, the name of licentiate Charles K. Scoon was, at his own request, because of ill-health, dropped from the roll.

October 23d, 1884, Rev. Cyrus L. Offer departed this life at Virgil, N. Y.

III. THE PRESBYTERY OF BOSTON consists of thirty-eight ministers and eighteen churches, and has under its care four candidates for the ministry.

The following ministers have been received :

April 8th, 1884, the Rev. William G. Barnes, from the Presbytery of East Florida, the Rev. Valentine A. Lewis, from the Presbytery of Benicia, and the Rev. George F. Moore, from the Presbytery of Zanesville.

October 15th, 1884, the Rev. Andrew Burrows, from the Presbytery of Truro, Presbyterian Church of Canada, and the Rev. Isaac White, from the Free Will Baptist Church.

Pastoral relation dissolved :

April 30th, 1884, between the Rev. Peter M. Macdonald, Ph. D., and the Church at Reading, Mass.

Installation :

April 30th, 1884, the Rev. Valentine A. Lewis, over the First Church of Boston.

Dismission :

October 15th, 1884, the Rev. Abraham S. Gardiner, to the Presbytery of Hudson.

Names dropped from the roll as being those of Congregational pastors :

October 15th, 1884, the Rev. James G. Johnson, D. D., the Rev. Soltan F. Calhoun, and the Rev. Frank Allen.

April 8th, 1884, the name of S. Blagden was dropped from the roll of candidates for the ministry.

IV. THE PRESBYTERY OF BROOKLYN consists of fifty ministers and twenty-two churches, and has under its care two licentiates and eight candidates for the ministry.

The following ministers have been received :

Rev. Andrew Shiland, D. D., from the Presbytery of Long Island, Rev. James M. Anderson, from the Presbytery of Monmouth, Rev. Benjamin Staunton, from the Hudson River Congregational Association, December 19th, 1883 ;

Rev. J. Winthrop Hageman, from the Presbytery of Winnebago, January 28th, 1884 ;

Rev. Elias N. Crane, from the Presbytery of Baltimore, April 17th, 1884 ;

Rev. William J. Gill, from the Presbytery of Baltimore, June 30th, 1884 ;

Rev. David Stevenson, D. D., from the Presbytery of Elizabeth, and Rev. Alfred C. Roe, from the Presbytery of North River, October 13th, 1884.

Licentiate received :

Philipp Vollmer, from the Presbytery of Newark, October 13th, 1884.

Candidates taken under the care of the Presbytery :

L. William Hones, Louis O. Rotenbach, George W. Gilmore, October 13th, 1884.

Pastoral relation dissolved :

Between Rev. Arthur Crosby and the Second Church of Brooklyn, January 28th, 1884.

Installations :

Rev. Benjamin Staunton, over the Fort Greene Church, December 23d, 1883 ;

Rev. J. Winthrop Hageman, over the Franklin Avenue Church, February 6th, 1884;
Rev. William J. Gill, over the Trinity Church, September 14th, 1884.

Ministers dismissed:

Rev. Arthur Crosby, to the Presbytery of Benicia, January 28th, 1884;

Rev. Benjamin Parsons, to the Presbytery of Columbia, and Rev. Albert A. Fulton, to the Presbytery of Canton, March 4th, 1884;

Rev. Andrew Shiland, D. D., to the Presbytery of New York, October 13th, 1884.

The Rev. Benjamin B. Drake deceased July 29th, 1884, aged 87 years.

Trinity Church was duly organized in the 23d Ward, May 4th, 1884.

V. THE PRESBYTERY OF BUFFALO consists of forty-two ministers and thirty-two churches, and has under its care two licentiates and two candidates.

The following ministers have been received:

June 16th, 1884, Rev. John Paul Egbert, from the Presbytery of San José;
October 7th, 1884, Rev. William L. Hyde, from the Presbytery of Geneva.

The following licentiates have been received:

October 15th, 1883, Mr. J. Joseph Rankin, from the Presbytery of Newark, and Mr. Charles D. Barrows, from the Presbytery of Utica.

Mr. Silas E. Persons was licensed to preach the Gospel, April 15th, 1884.

Pastoral relation dissolved:

November 19th, 1883, between Rev. James McLeod and the Central Church, Buffalo.

The following have been ordained:

October 23d, 1883, Mr. Charles D. Barrows;
November 13th, 1883, Mr. J. Joseph Rankin.

The following ministers have been installed:

October 23d, 1883, Rev. Charles D. Barrows, as pastor of the Church in Jamestown;
November 13th, 1883, Rev. J. Joseph Rankin, as pastor of the Church in Clarence;
June 25th, 1884, Rev. John Paul Egbert, as pastor of Calvary Church, Buffalo.

Ministers have been dismissed as follows:

November 19th, 1883, Rev. Gavin L. Hamilton, to the Presbytery of Genesee;
January 15th, 1884, Rev. James McLeod, to the Presbytery of Indianapolis;
April 14th, 1884, Rev. Edwin S. Wright, D. D., to the Hampshire East Association;
August 25th, Rev. W. Alfred Gay, to the Presbytery of Elizabeth;
October 23d, 1884, Rev. William L. Austin, to the Presbytery of New Albany.

Lack of information prevented the report last year of the death of Rev. Nathaniel H. Barnes, aged 67, at Hillsdale, Michigan, on September 9th, 1883.

The proper name of the Church, hitherto known as "Glenwood," is "Colden."

VI. THE PRESBYTERY OF CAYUGA consists of thirty ministers and twenty-two churches, and has under its care eight licentiates and four candidates.

The following ministers have been received:

October 30th, 1883, Rev. Charles Anderson, from the Classis of Cayuga;
June 11th, 1884, Rev. Junius J. Cowles, from the Presbytery of Philadelphia, North;

September 17th, 1884, Rev. Clarence H. Beebe, from the Presbytery of Utica;

October 8th, 1884, Rev. Asa S. Fiske, from the Presbytery of San Francisco, and Rev. James S. Riggs, from the Presbytery of Syracuse.

Candidates taken under the care of the Presbytery:

October 30th, 1883, Albert S. Hughey, George H. Rice, James R. Robinson, Isaac P. Smith;

May 8th, 1884, William H. Dexter.

Candidates licensed:

April 10th, 1884, Albert S. Hughey, Charles H. Phillips, George H. Rice, James R. Robinson, Isaac P. Smith.

Ordinations:

April 9th, 1884, Duncan Cameron, James W. Seelye.

Installations:

June 11th, 1884, Rev. Junius J. Cowles, over the Church of Fair Haven;

October 8th, 1884, Rev. Asa S. Fiske, over the Church of Ithaca.

Ministers dismissed:

September 16th, 1884, Rev. Chester P. Murray, to the Classis of Geneva, Rev. Wilson F. Cellars, to the Presbytery of Detroit, Rev. William H. Lester, to the Presbytery of Chile, Rev. Allen G. Daniels, to the Presbytery of Genesee Valley;

October 8th, 1884, Rev. Duncan Cameron, to the Presbytery of Chile.

Licentiates dismissed:

April 8th, 1884, John C. Lenhart, to the Presbytery of Lyons, Arthur W. Spooner, to the Presbytery of Chemung, William H. Kelley, to the Presbytery of Columbia, Alfred T. Vail, to the Presbytery of St. Lawrence;

September 16th, 1884, Harold J. Frothingham, to the Presbytery of Schuyler.

April 8th, 1884, the license of William W. Hibbard was revoked.

VII. THE PRESBYTERY OF CHAMPLAIN consists of twenty-one ministers and seventeen churches, and has under its care one candidate.

Ministers have been received as follows:

February 19th, 1884, Rev. B. Fay Mills, from the Classis of Saratoga, and Rev. Charles C. Torry, from the Andover Association of Congregational Ministers;

June 18th, 1884, Rev. John L. Gourlay, from the Presbytery of St. Lawrence, and Rev. W. G. B. Lewis, from the Methodist Episcopal Church.

Mr. William Frazer was received under the care of the Presbytery, as a candidate for the ministry, February 19th, 1884.

Mr. Daniel Mackay was received as a candidate, June 18th, 1884, and at the same date licensed and ordained to the Gospel ministry.

Pastoral relation dissolved:

October 17th, 1883, between Rev. Thornton A. Mills and the Church of Champlain.

The following ministers have been installed:

November 12th, 1883, Rev. Chandler N. Thomas, as pastor of the Church in Port Henry;

July 1st, 1884, Rev. John L. Gourlay, as pastor of the Church in Mooers.

Ministers have been dismissed as follows :

June 18th, 1884, Rev. Charles E. Upson, to the Presbytery of Westchester;
 July 7th, 1884, Rev. Joseph F. Flindt, to the Presbytery of Freeport.

VIII. THE PRESBYTERY OF CHEMUNG consists of twenty-five ministers and twenty-three churches, and has under its care four candidates.

The following minister has been received :

December 4th, 1883, Rev. Isaac Jennings, Jr., from the Naugatuck Valley Association.

April 21st, 1884, Mr. Arthur W. Spooner, a licentiate, was received from the Presbytery of Cayuga.

Ordination and installation :

May 13th, 1884, Arthur W. Spooner was ordained and installed pastor of the Lake Street Church, Elmira.

Ministers dismissed :

April 21st, 1884, Rev. Nathan Bosworth, to the Presbytery of Northumberland, and Rev. Charles O. Hanmer, to the Presbytery of Cayuga.

IX. THE PRESBYTERY OF CHILE consists of six ministers and three churches, and has under its care one candidate for the ministry.

Rev. John M. Allis was received from the Presbytery of Crawfordsville, January 15th, 1884.

Julio Neuman was taken under the care of the Presbytery as a candidate for the ministry, June 14th, 1883.

Four other young men are studying for the ministry, under the direction of the Chile Mission, who have not yet connected themselves with the Presbytery as candidates for that office.

X. THE PRESBYTERY OF COLUMBIA consists of sixteen ministers and nineteen churches, and has under its care two licentiates.

Ministers received :

April 29th, 1884, Rev. Benjamin Parsons, from the Presbytery of Brooklyn, and Rev. Edward Stratton, from the Presbytery of Albany.

Licentiates received :

January 29th, 1884, David Brown Minor, from the Presbytery of Albany;

April 30th, 1884, William H. Kelley, from the Presbytery of Cayuga.

Licensed :

April 30th, 1884, Charles E. Herbert;

September 16th, 1884, Frederick G. Coan.

Installations :

December 13th, 1883, J. Perry Beaver was ordained, and installed pastor of the Church in Canaan Centre;

January 29th, 1884, David B. Minor was ordained, and installed pastor of the Church in Hillsdale;

April 30th, 1884, William H. Kelley was ordained, and installed pastor of the Church in Spencertown;

September 17th, 1884, Rev. Edward Stratton was installed pastor of the Church in Greenville.

Ministers dismissed:

March 19th, 1884, Rev. Leonard W. Church, to the Presbytery of Lackawanna;
April 30th, 1884, Rev. Emory Van Wagoner, to the Presbytery of New Castle.

Dropped from the roll:

April 29th, 1884, Rev. Benjamin F. Snyder.

Church transferred:

September 19th, 1883, pursuant to the action of the Synod, the Church of Rensselaerville to the Presbytery of Albany.

April 30th, 1884, the Presbyterian Church of New Lebanon having asked permission to withdraw from the Presbytery, thirty-three of its members, at their own request, were granted letters of dismission to the Congregational Church of New Lebanon, thus avoiding the necessity of dissolving a Church, or permitting its withdrawal in opposition to the expressed feeling of a respectable minority. This action of the Presbytery was taken in the absence of a competent Session.

XI. THE PRESBYTERY OF GENESEE consists of twenty-three ministers and twenty-three churches.

The following ministers have been received:

April 15th, 1884, Rev. John Reid, from the Presbytery of Niagara, Rev. Gavin L. Hamilton, from the Presbytery of Buffalo, and Rev. Allan D. Draper, from the Presbytery of Lyons.

The Rev. Allan D. Draper was installed pastor of the Bergen Church, September 9th, 1884.

Ministers dismissed:

Rev. Faber Byllesby, to the Presbytery of Winona, March 13th, 1884;

Rev. C. Rufus Clark, to the Presbytery of Chicago, and Rev. Stephen F. Drew, to the Orleans Congregational Association of Vermont, April 15th, 1884;

Rev. Edwin Allen, to the Presbytery of Niagara, September 9th, 1884.

XII. THE PRESBYTERY OF GENESEE VALLEY consists of ten ministers and fifteen churches.

Ministers received:

April 14th, 1884, Rev. James Albert Green, from the Free Methodist Church;

September 23d, Rev. Allen G. Daniels, from the Presbytery of Cayuga.

Dissolution of pastoral relation:

April 15th, 1884, between Rev. David Winters and the Church at Olean.

Installation:

September 23d, 1884, Rev. Allen G. Daniels, over the Church of Ellicottville.

Ministers dismissed:

April 14th, 1884, Rev. Jesse Lee, to the Presbytery of Mattoon, Rev. Albert C. Titus, to the Presbytery of New Brunswick, and Rev. John R. Findley, to the Congregational Association of Grand River, Ohio;

April 15th, Rev. David Winters, to the Presbytery of Northumberland.

XIII. THE PRESBYTERY OF GENEVA consists of thirty-five ministers and twenty-two churches, and has under its care four licentiates and three candidates for the ministry.

Ministers have been received as follows:

April 16th, 1884, Rev. Benjamin F. Millard, from the Presbytery of Steuben, and Rev. John Cairns, from the Presbytery of Chemung;

September 17th, 1884, Rev. William A. Rice, from the Presbytery of Lyons, and Rev. Henry M. Morey, from the Presbytery of Indianapolis.

Licensed:

April 15th, 1884, L. Mason Clarke;

June 9th, 1884, Charles E. Bronson.

Candidate taken under the care of the Presbytery:

September 17th, 1884, Elmer B. Waller.

Dissolutions of pastoral relations:

April 15th, 1884, between Rev. George C. Curtis, D. D., and the Church of Canandaigua, and between Rev. Edgar P. Salmon and the Church of Oaks Corners.

Ministers dismissed:

April 15th, 1884, Rev. John F. McLaury, to the Presbytery of Binghamton, Rev. Minor Swick, to the Presbytery of Steuben, and Rev. Allen Traver, to the Presbytery of Lyons;

September 17th, 1884, Rev. William L. Hyde, to the Presbytery of Buffalo.

XIV. THE PRESBYTERY OF HUDSON consists of forty-two ministers and forty-four churches, and has under its care three candidates.

Ministers received:

On the 11th of March, 1884, Rev. David F. Bonner, from the U. P. Presbytery of Caledonia;

On the 15th of September, Rev. Fenwick T. Williams, from the Presbytery of North River;

On the 20th of October, Rev. Abraham S. Gardiner, from the Presbytery of Boston, and Rev. John Service, from the U. P. Presbytery of Albany.

Licentiate received:

On the 4th of December, 1884, Mr. Newton L. Reed, from the Presbytery of Cayuga.

Pastoral relations dissolved:

On the 4th of February, 1884, between Rev. Eugene H. Mateer and the Church of Milford;

On the 11th of March, between Rev. Thomas C. Straus and the Church of Stony Point;

On the 18th of March, between Rev. Robert H. Craig and the Church of Otisville;

On the 22d of April, between Rev. Henry F. Wadsworth and the Church of Unionville;

On the 16th of September, between Rev. John U. Tschudi and the Clarkstown German Church;

On the 20th of October, between Rev. Alfred P. Botsford and the Church of Port Jervis.

Ordination:

On the 4th of December, 1883, Mr. Newton L. Reed.

Installations:

On the 11th of November, 1883, Rev. Ferdinand Bernhardt, over the Jeffersonville German Church;

On the 4th of December, Rev. Newton L. Reed, over the Church of Palisades;
 On the 10th of April, 1884, Rev. David F. Bonner, over the Goodwill Church;
 On the 30th of September, Rev. Fenwick T. Williams, over the Monticello Church;
 On the 7th of October, Rev. Robert E. Campbell, over the First Church of Florida.

Dismissions:

On the 4th of February, 1884, Rev. Eugene H. Mateer, to the Presbytery of Huntington;
 On the 11th of March, Rev. Thomas C. Straus, to the Presbytery of North River;
 On the 18th of March, Rev. Robert H. Craig, to the Presbytery of Lackawanna;
 On the 22d of April, Rev. Hugh B. McCauley, to the Presbytery of New Brunswick;
 On the 20th of October, Rev. Alfred P. Botsford to the Presbytery of West Jersey.

Deceased:

On the 30th of May, 1884, Rev. Nathaniel Elmer.

XV. THE PRESBYTERY OF LONG ISLAND consists of twenty ministers and twenty-two churches, and has under its care three candidates.

The following ministers have been received:

April 9th, 1884, Rev. James S. Evans, D. D., from the Presbytery of Newark, Rev. William Hunting, from the Presbytery of Westchester, and Rev. Walter Condict, from the Presbytery of St. Paul.

September 4th, 1884, Mr. Daniel H. Overton was taken under the care of the Presbytery as a candidate for the ministry.

The following pastoral relations have been dissolved:

October 18th, 1883, between the Rev. Alexander W. Sproull and the Church of Sag Harbor;
 September 4th, 1884, between the Rev. Thomas Harries and the Church of Shelter Island.

Installation:

April 30th, 1884, the Rev. Walter Condict, over the Church of Southampton.

Ministers have been dismissed as follows:

October 18th, 1883, the Rev. Alexander W. Sproull, to the Presbytery of East Florida;
 April 10th, 1884, the Rev. William B. Lee, to the Presbytery of Puget Sound;
 September 4th, 1884, the Rev. Nicholas J. Marselus Bogert, to the Classis of Philadelphia.

XVI. THE PRESBYTERY OF LYONS consists of sixteen ministers and eighteen churches, and has under its care three candidates.

Minister received:

July 21st, 1884, Rev. Allen Traver, from the Presbytery of Geneva.

Licentiate received:

April 15th, 1884, John C. Lenhart, from the Presbytery of Cayuga.

Licensed:

June 10th, 1884, Frederic Gordon Stuart.

April 15th, 1884, John H. Clark was taken under the care of the Presbytery, as a candidate for the ministry.

Pastoral relations dissolved:

February 11th, 1884, between Rev. Allan D. Draper and the Church of Wolcott, Second;

July 7th, 1884, between Rev. William A. Rice and the Church of Wolcott, First.

Ordained:

June 10th, 1884, John C. Lenhart;

July 21st, 1884, Frederic Gordon Stuart.

Installed:

June 10th, 1884, Rev. John C. Lenhart, over the Church of Wolcott, Second.

Dismissed:

February 11th, 1884, Rev. Allan D. Draper, to the Presbytery of Genesee;

September 9th, Rev. William A. Rice, to the Presbytery of Geneva.

Deceased:

October 21st, 1883, Rev. Horace Eaton, aged 72 years.

XVII. THE PRESBYTERY OF NASSAU consists of twenty-six ministers and twenty-four churches, and has under its care one licentiate.

Ministers received:

November 14th, 1883, Rev. James C. Hume, from the Presbytery of Westminster;

February 8th, 1884, Rev. Christian W. Winnie, from the Presbytery of West Jersey.

Licentiate received:

July 21, 1884, Mr. Charles E. Dunn, from the Presbytery of Elizabeth.

License conferred:

October 7th, 1884, upon Mr. W. Wallace Kirby.

Dissolution of pastoral relations:

April 1st, 1884, between Rev. Frederick E. Hopkins and Christ Church, Hempstead.

Ordination:

July 21st, 1884, Mr. Charles E. Dunn.

Installations:

November 14th, 1883, Rev. James C. Hume, over the Church of Babylon;

February 8th, 1884, Rev. Christian W. Winnie, over the Bellmore Church;

July 21st, 1884, Rev. Charles E. Dunn, over Christ Church, Hempstead.

April 15th, 1884, the name of Rev. Charles F. Boynton was stricken from the roll.

November 14th, 1883, the Church at Comac was received under the care of the Presbytery, upon its own request, and with the consent of the Long Island Congregational Association.

XVIII. THE PRESBYTERY OF NEW YORK consists of one hundred and twenty-seven ministers, and forty-one churches, and has under its care nineteen licentiates and thirteen candidates.

The following ministers have been received:

December 10th, 1883, Rev. Wilbur F. Crafts, from the Manhattan Congregational Association, New York;

December 24th, Rev. George Alexander, from the Presbytery of Albany;
 February 4th, 1884, Rev. Roswell D. Smith, from the Presbytery of Jersey City;
 March 10th, Rev. Abraham Woodruff Halsey, from the Presbytery of Elizabeth;
 June 9th, Rev. Edwin E. Rogers, from the Presbytery of West Jersey;
 October 13th, Rev. William Y. Brown, D. D., from the Presbytery of Chester.

The following candidates have been taken under the care of the Presbytery:

December 10th, 1883, D. Gourley Wylie, and Samuel G. Anderson, received from the Presbytery of St. Paul;

April 14, 1884, Avac Cutusian, James S. Young, and James G. Hamner;

May 5th, James G. Smith;

May 12th, James Carter;

June 9th, Vernon M. Olyphant;

June 16th, William Scott Watson, Jr.;

October 13th, Andrew C. Armstrong, Andrew Beattie, John S. Christison, Frederick D. Brandenburg, William D. Grant, and William G. Hanna, from the Presbytery of New Brunswick.

The following pastoral relations have been dissolved:

February 4th, 1884, between Rev. Alfred H. Moment and the Spring Street Church;

April 14th, between Rev. William Stephenson and the Rutgers Church.

The following licentiates have been ordained:

January 27th, 1884, Walter D. Buchanan.

February 11th, the ordination of Nicholas Bjerring, late of the Greek Church, was endorsed;

May 12th, James F. Garvin.

The following ministers have been installed:

November 12th, 1883, Rev. Vincent Pisek, as pastor of the Bohemian Church;

December 17th, Rev. James H. Hoadley, as pastor of Faith Church;

December 20th, Rev. Wilbur F. Crafts, as pastor of the First Union Church; and Rev. George Alexander as pastor of the University Place Church;

February 15th, 1884, Rev. Alfred H. Moment, as pastor of the Church worshiping in East 77th Street.

June 22d, Rev. Edwin E. Rogers, as pastor of the Allen Street Church.

The following ministers have been dismissed:

November 12th, 1883, the Rev. Robert S. Feagles, to the Presbytery of Northern Pacific;

January 14th, 1884, Rev. William H. Belden, to the Presbytery of West Jersey;

March 10th, Rev. James Walter Lowrie, to the Presbytery of Pekin;

October 13th, Rev. Edgar A. Elmore, to the Presbytery of Union.

The following licentiates have been transferred:

November 20th, 1883, David W. Hutchinson, to the Long Island Congregational Association, New York;

December 19th, Earl T. Lockwood, to the Presbytery of Puget Sound;

February 6th, 1884, James D. Paxton, to the Presbytery of Albany;

September 23d, Samuel G. Anderson, to the Presbytery of St. Paul.

Died:

June —, 1884, Sigmund Uhlfelder, in the 67th year of his age;

November 26th, 1883, in New York, Rev. John Hall Macgowan, pastor of the Canal Street Church, in the 24th year of his age;

July 15th, 1884, at Ocean Grove, N. J., Rev. William P. Strickland, D. D., in the 76th year of his age.

Churches formed:

November 27th, 1883, a Church to be known as Faith Church;

January 11th, 1884, a Church in East 77th Street, without name at present.

XIX. THE PRESBYTERY OF NIAGARA consists of twenty-two ministers and eighteen churches, and has under its care one candidate.

The following ministers have been received:

April 28th, 1884, Rev. James A. Skinner, from the Presbytery of Syracuse;

September 23d, 1884, Rev. Edwin Allen, from the Presbytery of Genesee.

Ordination:

April 28th, 1884, Orson L. White was ordained as an evangelist.

Dismissions:

November 13th, 1883, Rev. John Reid, to the Presbytery of Genesee;

April 28th, 1884, Rev. Henry Cooper, to the Presbytery of Maumee, and Rev. Francis R. Wade, to the Presbytery of St. Lawrence;

September 23d, Rev. John C. Henderson, to the Presbytery of Mankato.

September 23d, 1884, Rev. Solon A. Whitcomb was deposed from the ministry and his name was stricken from the roll.

XX. THE PRESBYTERY OF NORTH RIVER consists of forty-seven ministers and thirty-one churches, and has under its care one licentiate and one candidate.

Ministers received:

April 21st, 1884, Rev. Thomas C. Straus, from the Presbytery of Hudson;

May 20th, Rev. John F. Hooper, from the Classis of Ulster;

October 8th, Rev. Frank Edge Kavanagh, from the Classis of Poughkeepsie, and Rev. Edward Love, from the Presbytery of London, England.

Licentiates received:

April 22d, 1884, James G. Roger, from the Presbytery of St. Lawrence;

June 16th, Thomas C. Clark, from the Presbytery of St. Clairsville;

October 8th, Charles E. Bronson, from the Presbytery of Geneva.

Pastoral relation dissolved:

April 21st, 1884, between Rev. Duncan C. Niven and the Church of Marlborough.

Ordinations:

May 20th, 1884, James G. Roger;

June 16th, Adrian V. S. Wallace;

June 24th, Thomas C. Clark.

Installations:

October 22d, 1883, Rev. Thomas Reeves, over the Church at Matteawan, and Rev. James Wyckoff, over the Church at Pine Plains;

May 2d, 1884, Rev. Thomas C. Straus, over the Church at Cold Spring;

May 20th, Rev. James G. Roger, over the Church at New Hamburg;

June 3d, Rev. John F. Hooper, over the Church at Kingston;

June 24th, Rev. Thomas C. Clark, over the Church at Freedom Plains.

Ministers dismissed:

April 21st, 1884, Rev. Alfred C. Roe, to the Presbytery of Brooklyn;
 April 22d, Rev. Fenwick T. Williams, to the Presbytery of Hudson;
 June 16th, Rev. R. Howard Wallace, to the Presbytery of Northern Pacific.

Deaths:

Rev. William R. S. Betts, at Shokan, September 28th, 1883, aged 83;
 Rev. John Johnston Walsh, at Amenia, February 7th, 1884, aged 63.

The Church at New Windsor was declared extinct, April 22d, 1884.

XXI. THE PRESBYTERY OF OROOMIAH consists of forty-two ministers, thirty of whom are native, and has under its care thirty-four licentiates.

XXII. THE PRESBYTERY OF OTSEGO consists of twenty-four ministers and twenty-six churches.

December 24th, 1883, Rev. Eugene Peck was dismissed to the Presbytery of Washington City.

April 23d, 1884, the name of George E. Soper, a candidate for the ministry, was dropped from the roll, as he had been licensed by a Congregational Association.

September 10th, 1884, the name of Marshall R. Gaines was dropped from the roll of licentiates, as he had been ordained by a Congregational Association.

May 10th, 1884, Rev. Edward Cope died, aged 78.

XXIII. THE PRESBYTERY OF ROCHESTER consists of sixty-six ministers and forty-three churches, and has under its care two licentiates and six candidates.

Ministers received:

February 4th, 1884, Rev. Peter Lindsay, from the Ontario Congregational Association;
 April 15th, Rev. Benjamin F. Willoughby, from the Presbytery of Utica;
 June 16th, Rev. Charles S. Durfee, from the Presbytery of Syracuse;
 September 16th, Rev. Clarence W. Backus, from the Presbytery of Albany.

April 15th, 1884, Frank Gaylord Weeks was licensed.

June 30th, 1884, Rev. George W. Davis, from the Methodist Conference of England, was received as a candidate;

September 16th, Hiram Albert Vance was received as a candidate.

Pastoral relations dissolved;

April 15th, 1884, between Rev. William F. Millikan and the Churches of Tuscarora and Union Corners;

September 16th, between Rev. Joseph R. Page, D. D., and the Church at Brighton.

Ordination:

November 15th, 1883, Theodore W. McNair was ordained as an evangelist.

Installation:

May 13th, 1884, Rev. Benjamin F. Willoughby, as pastor of the Church at Lima.

Ministers dismissed:

November 12th, 1883, Rev. Robert McLean, to the Presbytery of Oregon;
 April 15th, 1884, Rev. Bernhard Pick, to the Lutheran Church;

September 15th, 1884, Rev. Newton H. Bell, to the Presbytery of St. Paul.

March 11th, 1884, Rev. Thomas Aitken died at North Sparta, N. Y., aged 84, after a ministry of about sixty years, and a pastorate at North Sparta of about forty-four years.

The North Church of Rochester was organized February 12th, 1884.

XXIV. THE PRESBYTERY OF ST. LAWRENCE consists of twenty-six ministers and thirty churches, and has under its care two licentiates and two candidates.

Ministers received :

April 2d, 1884, Rev. George P. Beard, from the Presbytery of Pittsburgh, and Rev. Joseph Browne, who had been taken on probation from the Methodist Episcopal Church of Canada;

June 30th, Rev. Francis R. Wade, from the Presbytery of Niagara.

October 1st, 1884, licentiate Alfred T. Vail was received from the Presbytery of Cayuga, and Fred. B. Waite was enrolled as a candidate.

Pastoral relations dissolved :

December 23d, 1883, between Rev. P. Miles Snyder and the Church of Carthage;

May 12th, 1884, between Rev. Jacob V. D. Shurts and the Church of Chaumont;

June 30th, between Rev. James Gardner, D. D., and the Church of Canton.

Installations :

July 16th, 1884, Rev. Jacob V. D. Shurts, over the Church of Carthage;

October 17th, Alfred T. Vail was ordained and installed over the Churches of Brownville and Dexter.

Ministers dismissed :

December 23d, 1883, Rev. P. Miles Snyder, to the Middletown Association of Congregational Churches of Connecticut;

April 2, 1884, Rev. John L. Gourlay, to the Presbytery of Champlain;

June 30th, Rev. Martin E. Grant, to the Presbytery of Utica; and Rev. James Gardner, D. D., to the Presbytery of Albany;

October 1st, Rev. George P. Beard, to the Presbytery of Northumberland.

James G. Roger, candidate, was transferred to the Presbytery of North River, April 2d, 1884.

Rev. L. Merrill Miller, D. D., was elected the Stated Clerk and Treasurer of the Presbytery June 30th, 1884.

XXV. THE PRESBYTERY OF SIAM reports (for the year ending December 31st, 1883), that it consists of six ministers and four churches, and has under its care four licentiates and two students for the ministry.

Ministers received :

November 24th, 1882, Rev. Samuel C. Peoples, from the Presbytery of Blairsville, Rev. John P. Hearst, from the Presbytery of Pittsburgh, and Rev. Charles D. MacLaren, from the Presbytery of New York.

Ministers dismissed :

November 24th, 1882, Rev. Charles S. McClelland, to the Presbytery of Pittsburgh, and Rev. Daniel McGilvary, D. D., Rev. Jonathan Wilson, Rev. Samuel C. Peoples, and Rev. John P. Hearst, to form the Presbytery of North Laos.

November 3d, 1883, Nai Rit was licensed to preach the Gospel, and Nai Kert, Nai Song, and Nai Yu were received as candidates for the ministry.

Minister deceased:

March 14th, 1883, Rev. Charles D. MacLaren departed this life, in the 28th year of his age.

XXVI. THE PRESBYTERY OF STEUBEN consists of twenty-one ministers and nineteen churches, and has under its care two candidates for the ministry.

Minister received:

April 16th, 1884, Rev. Minor Swick, from the Presbytery of Geneva.

Candidate taken under the care of the Presbytery:

September 10th, 1884, Alvin W. Cooper.

Dissolution of pastoral relations:

October 22d, 1884, between the Rev. Daniel J. Robertson and the Church of Canisteo.

Ministers dismissed:

April 16th, 1884, Rev. Benjamin F. Millard, to the Presbytery of Geneva, and Rev. Frederick Campbell, to the Presbytery of Utica.

Deaths:

March 29th, 1884, Rev. James Rowlette, aged 84 years;

April 14th, 1884, Rev. James M. Platt, D. D., aged 57 years.

XXVII. THE PRESBYTERY OF SYRACUSE consists of twenty-six ministers and thirty-five churches, and has under its care one licentiate and three candidates for the ministry.

Ministers received:

April 15th, 1884, Rev. George E. Macardel, from the Rockford Congregational Association of Illinois, and Rev. John J. Munro, from the Presbytery of Troy;

September 16th, Rev. Legh R. Janes, from the Presbytery of Union.

Licensed:

April 15th, 1884, Robert J. Thompson.

Candidate:

April 15th, 1884, Alfred N. Raven was received from the Presbytery of Chippewa.

Pastoral relations dissolved:

December 24th, 1883, between Rev. Samuel J. Rowland and the Church of Fayetteville;

January 17th, 1884, between Rev. Nelson Millard, D. D., and the First Church of Syracuse;

April 15th, between Rev. Charles S. Durfee and the Church at Liverpool;

July 7th, between Rev. James S. Riggs and the Church at Fulton;

October 7th, between Rev. Wilton M. Smith and the Church at Cazenovia, and between Rev. Granville R. Pike and the Church at Elbridge.

Ministers dismissed:

January 3d, 1884, Rev. Samuel J. Rowland, to the Presbytery of Elizabeth;

January 7th, Rev. Nelson Millard, D. D., to the New London Congregational Association;

April 15th, Rev. Peter Rizer, to the Presbytery of New Castle, Rev. James A. Skinner, to the Presbytery of Niagara, Rev. Charles W. Maccarthy, to the Presbytery of Northern Pacific, Rev. Henry D. Kurtz, to the Worcester Central Congregational Association, and Rev. Charles S. Durfee, to the Presbytery of Rochester;

July 7th, Rev. James S. Riggs, to the Presbytery of Cayuga;

October 7th, Rev. Wilton M. Smith, to the Presbytery of Cleveland.

XXVIII. THE PRESBYTERY OF TROY consists of fifty-seven ministers and forty-three churches, and has under its care three licentiates and nine candidates for the ministry.

Ministers received:

February 19th, 1884, Rev. Albert W. Dickens, from the Presbytery of Albany, and Rev. Kerr Cranston Anderson, from the Winnebago District Convention of Congregational Churches of Wisconsin;

February 20th, Rev. John H. Pollock, from the Presbytery of Northern Pacific;

June 17th, Rev. James F. Knowles, from the Presbytery of Utah.

Pastoral relations dissolved:

February 19th, 1884, between Rev. Oliver Hemstreet and the Churches of Pittstown and Johnsonville;

September 17th, between Rev. Teunis S. Hamlin and the Woodside Church of Troy, between Rev. John Lowrey and the Whitehall Church, and between Rev. Giles P. Hawley and the Mechanicville Church.

Installations:

February 26th, 1884, Rev. Kerr Cranston Anderson, over the First Church of Troy;

February 28th, Rev. Albert W. Dickens, over the Church of Argyle.

Ministers dismissed:

October 17th, 1883, Rev. S. Warner Curtis, to take part in the organization of the Presbytery of Concepcion, Chile;

February 19th, 1884, Rev. Oliver Hemstreet, to the Presbytery of Albany, and Rev. John J. Munro, to the Presbytery of Syracuse;

June 17th, Rev. Robert J. Jones, to the Presbytery of Peoria;

September 17th, Rev. Teunis S. Hamlin, to the Presbytery of Cincinnati, and Rev. John Lowrey, to the Presbytery of Newton.

XXIX. THE PRESBYTERY OF UTICA consists of fifty-three ministers and forty-two churches, and has under its care three licentiates.

Ministers received:

April 21st, 1884, Rev. Frederick Campbell, from the Presbytery of Steuben;

September 9th, Rev. Willard M. Hoyt, from the Presbytery of Wisconsin River, and Rev. Hugh P. McAdam, from the Classis of Geneva.

Pastoral relations dissolved:

December 21st, 1883, between Rev. Benjamin F. Willoughby and the Church of Saquoit;

September 9th, 1884, between Rev. Clarence H. Beebe and the Church of Clayville.

Installations:

October 24th, 1883, Rev. Henry M. Dodd, over the Church of Augusta;

April 21st, 1884, Rev. Frederick Campbell, over the Church of Boonville.

Ministers dismissed:

October 24th, 1883, Rev. Albert F. Lyle, to the Presbytery of Newark;
 December 21st, Rev. Benjamin F. Willoughby, to the Presbytery of Rochester;
 April 15th, 1884, Rev. William E. Dodge, to the Presbytery of Chile, S. A.;
 September 9th, Rev. Clarence H. Beebe, to the Presbytery of Cayuga.

Deaths:

October 20th, 1883, Rev. Edwin F. Robb, at Oswego, N. Y.;
 November 10th, Rev. Albert H. Corliss, at Cambridge, N. Y.

Church received:

The Church of Kirkland, heretofore connected with the Oneida, Chenango and Delaware Association, was received April 15th, 1884.

April 15th, 1884, the name of candidate John Smith was dropped from the roll.

XXX. THE PRESBYTERY OF WESTCHESTER consists of fifty-five ministers and thirty-nine churches, and has under its care five licentiates and three candidates for the ministry.

Ministers received:

January 15th, 1884, Rev. Anthony R. Macoubrey, from the Presbytery of Chemung, and Rev. John D. Long, from the Manhattan Congregational Association;
 April 16th, Rev. Lyman D. Calkins, from the Presbytery of Northumberland;
 October 7th, Rev. Addison D. Madeira, D. D., from the Presbytery of Upper Missouri of the Southern Presbyterian Church.

Licensed:

April 16th, 1884, Elijah W. Green and John H. Hobbs.

Dissolution of pastoral relations:

April 15th, 1884, between Rev. Robert A. Davison and the Church at Throgg's Neck;
 July 18th, between Rev. John Dixon and the Westminster Church, Yonkers.

Installations:

February 12th, 1884, Rev. John D. Long, over the Church at West Farms;
 May 21st, Rev. Lyman D. Calkins, over the Church at South Salem.

Ministers dismissed:

April 15th, 1884, Rev. Robert A. Davison, to the Presbytery of Albany;
 July 18th, Rev. John Dixon, to the Presbytery of New Brunswick;
 October 7th, Rev. H. Randall Waite, Ph. D., to the Presbytery of Boston.

Licentiate dismissed:

John Montgomery, to the Presbytery of Boston.

Death:

December 24th, 1883, Rev. Thomas M. Gray departed this life.

SUMMARY.

[Including the Presbytery of North Laos.]

Ministers,	1,057	Licentiates,	97
Churches,	774	Candidates,	94

III. ELMIRA COLLEGE.

I. STATEMENT OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES, JULY 1ST, 1884.

I. ASSETS.

Estimated Value of Grounds and Buildings,	\$150,000.00	
President's House and Grounds,	8,000.00	
Two City Lots,	1,500.00	
Furniture of College,	10,000.00	
Library,	4,000.00	
Collections and Apparatus,	4,000.00	
Musical Instruments,	7,000.00	
Paintings in Art Gallery,	2,000.00	
Observatory Property,	8,000.00	
Total,		\$194,500.00

Invested Assets:

State Endowment,	\$50,000.00	
"Benjamin" Aid Fund,	23,500.00	
Marquand Endowment Fund Bonds,	11,000.00	
Memorial Fund,	1,000.00	
Interest on "Benjamin" Endowment Fund,	22,400.00	\$107,900.00
Grand Total,		\$302,400.00

II. LIABILITIES.

Bond and Mortgage to Pratt Estate,	\$25,000.00	
College Bonds held by the Endowment Fund,	9,500.00	
Floating Debt,	11,620.00	
Total,		\$46,120.00

III. EXPENDITURES.

Ordinary:

Actually paid,	\$30,838.80	
Incurred and not paid,	5,195.47	\$36,034.27

IV. REVENUE.

Board and Tuition Fees, collected and collectible,	\$26,253.10	
Interest on Investments,	6,055.28	\$32,308.38
Deficiency for the year,		\$3,725.89

[NOTE.—The expenditures include some items that do not belong exclusively to the past year, as well as \$1,500 invested in the Endowment Fund.]

NEWTON P. FASSETT,

Secretary and Treasurer.

2. BOARD OF TRUSTEES.

Term Expiring in 1885.

John T. Rathbun,
John I. Nicks,
Newton P. Fassett,

Rev. Henry A. Nelson, D. D.,
Rev. Wilson Phraner, D. D.,
Seymour Dexter.

Term Expiring in 1886.

Alexander S. Diven,
Daniel R. Pratt,
Francis Hall,

Rev. Benjamin M. Goldsmith, D. D.,
Jackson Richardson,
H. Boardman Smith.

Term Expiring in 1887.

Rev. Augustus W. Cowles, D. D.,
Rev. George C. Curtis, D. D.,
Rev. William Hogarth, D. D.,

Rev. Evert Van Slyke,
Rev. William A. Niles, D. D.,
Rev. Isaac Jemings, Jr.,
Daniel W. McWilliams.

3. BOARD OF EXAMINERS.

Term Expiring in 1885.

Rev. J. Jermain Porter, D. D.,

Rev. John S. Bacon.

Rev. Samuel Dunham,

Term Expiring in 1886.

Rev. Charles C. Carr,

Rev. George D. Meigs.

Rev. Franklin S. Howe,

Term Expiring in 1887.

Rev. Hugh W. Torrence,

Rev. Stanley D. Jewell.

Rev. Charles C. Hemenway,

IV. STANDING RULES.

I.

The Annual Meeting of the Synod shall begin on the Third Tuesday of October, at half-past seven o'clock P. M.

II.

The place of the next meeting shall be designated prior to the adjournment yearly.

A Committee of Arrangements shall be appointed, who shall provide suitable accommodations for the Synod and entertainment for its members, recommend the limits of the daily sessions, and propose arrangements for devotional services; provided, however, that

the morning sessions shall always be begun with devotional services, to be continued ordinarily for half an hour.

III.

The Moderator and the Stated and Permanent Clerks shall be a Standing Committee, to report, from year to year, on the place of the next meeting of the Synod:

IV.

Each Presbytery shall, at its stated meeting next preceding the meeting of the Synod, and, if possible, not later than two weeks before such meeting, elect the number of delegates to which it is entitled, together with an equal number of alternates, as prescribed by the organic rule under which the Synod is constituted, namely :

“The Synod of New York shall be composed of equal delegations of ministers and ruling elders from each Presbytery in the following proportion: each Presbytery, the number of whose ministers and Churches taken together is not more than 14, shall send one minister and one elder; each Presbytery, containing more than 14 and not more than 28 ministers and Churches taken together, shall send two ministers and two elders; and so in like proportion for every additional number of 14 ministers and Churches taken together, or for the fraction thereof; *provided*, that no Presbytery shall be entitled to send more than ten ministers and ten elders.”

V.

The Stated Clerk of each Presbytery shall send to the Stated Clerk of the Synod, at least one week before the annual meeting of the Synod, an official report of the delegates and alternate delegates elected by the Presbytery to represent it at the Synod; and from such report shall be made up the official roll of the Synod.

At the calling of the roll of the Synod at its first session, the names of all delegates who have been officially reported to represent the Presbyteries shall be called, and those not responding, either personally or by alternates officially reported, shall be marked as absent.

When alternate delegates appear in place of their principals regularly appointed, such delegates shall report in person to the Stated Clerk of the Synod, and their names shall be substituted upon the official roll for those of their principals.

Duplicate lists of delegates shall be sent by the Stated Clerks of the Presbyteries to the Chairman of the Committee of Arrangements.

VI.

The Stated and Permanent Clerks, and the Chairmen of Committees appointed at a previous session to report to the Synod, shall have the privileges of the floor.

Ministers of other Synods, and of bodies in regular correspondence with the General Assembly, may be elected corresponding members, and the members nominating them shall report immediately to the Stated Clerk, in writing, the names of such ministers, in full, their Synodical or equivalent ecclesiastical relations, and their post-office addresses.

VII.

In case of the failure of the Moderator, the annual meeting shall be opened with a sermon by a minister of the Synod designated by the Committee of Arrangements.

VIII.

A complete roll of the ministers and Churches of each Presbytery shall be sent by its Stated Clerk to the Stated Clerk of the Synod, at least ten days before the annual meeting.

IX.

Each Presbytery shall present in writing, early in the sessions of the Synod, a Statistical Report and History of its Acts and Changes, for the year preceding, as required by the Form of Government, Chap. X., Sec. 9. These reports shall be printed in the Appendix to the Minutes.

X.

The following Standing Committees shall be appointed by the Moderator at every annual meeting :

1. Bills and Overtures ; to consist of six ministers and five elders.
2. Judicial Business ; to consist of six ministers and five elders.
3. Minutes of the General Assembly ; to consist of three ministers and two elders.
4. Finance ; to consist of five elders.
5. Sunday-School Work ; to consist of six ministers and five elders.
6. Leave of Absence ; to consist of three ministers and two elders.
7. To Nominate Committees to attend the examinations in Union and Auburn Theological Seminaries ; to consist of four ministers and three elders.
8. To Nominate the Ladies' Synodical Committee on Home Missions ; to consist of four ministers and three elders.
9. To Nominate the Permanent Committee on Temperance ; to consist of four ministers and three elders.
10. To Nominate the Trustees and Examiners of Elmira Female College ; to consist of four ministers and three elders.
11. On the Records of the several Presbyteries ; each Committee to consist of two ministers and one elder.

Before the adjournment, a Committee on Systematic Beneficence and the Work of the Church, to consist of eight ministers and seven elders, shall be appointed, to report the next year. In addition to its general report, this Committee shall draft a brief Pastoral Letter to be sent down by the Synod to its Presbyteries and Churches.

XI.

1. At every annual meeting, one of the three classes of Trustees of the Elmira Female College, consisting of six or seven members as the case may be, shall be elected for a period of three years ; and any vacancy which may have occurred in any class shall be filled.
2. The Reformed (Dutch), the Congregational, the Methodist Episcopal, the Protestant Episcopal, and the Baptist denominations, shall be represented, each by one member of the Board of Trustees, to be chosen by the Synod, as required by the charter.
3. Three ministers shall likewise be chosen for a period of three years, as members of a Board of nine Examiners, whose duty it shall be to visit the College at such times as they may agree upon, and examine its methods of instruction and discipline, as well as the general condition of the institution, and its adaptedness to the work entrusted to it. The Board shall appoint its own Chairman and Secretary, and shall present a written report annually to the Synod.

XII.

In all cases not otherwise provided for by its own regulations, the Synod shall be governed in its proceeding by the General Rules for Judicatories appended to the Form of Government, as amended by the General Assembly.

XIII.

All papers intended for Committees shall be delivered to the Stated Clerk, and reported by him to the Synod, before being referred.

XIV.

In the case of extended reports, if they are to be recorded, the Stated Clerk shall have authority to condense, at his discretion, those portions which do not contain resolutions or recommendations adopted by the Synod, unless otherwise directed by vote of the Synod.

XV.

To provide for the necessary expenses of the Synod, the several Presbyteries shall furnish annually amounts proportioned respectively to the number of their communicants, according to a rate *per capita* determined at the previous meeting of the Synod. And if no action has been taken, the rate shall be six mills for each communicant.

These sums shall be due and payable to the Treasurer on the first of October, when the Synod's fiscal year shall terminate.

XVI.

The Treasurer shall be authorized to pay the salaries, the traveling expenses of the Stated and Permanent Clerks in attending the sessions of the Synod, and all charges incurred under the standing orders or special resolutions of the Synod, upon the certificate of the Stated Clerk; and his accounts and vouchers shall be presented at the annual meeting, and shall be audited by the Committee on Finance.

XVII.

Vacancies occurring, between the annual sessions of the Synod, in any Committees whose members have been appointed to represent the Presbyteries, may be filled, *ad interim*, by the Presbyteries concerned.

XVIII.

The Minutes of the Synod shall be printed, under the direction of the Stated Clerk, as soon as practicable after the adjournment; and a copy shall be sent to every minister in the Synod, to every elder whose name is on the roll, and to the Session of each vacant Church.

V. STATED CLERKS OF PRESBYTERIES.

Additions and Changes.

CHILE: Rev. William H. Lester, Santiago.

NORTH RIVER: Rev. John Macnaughtan, Newburgh.

ST. LAWRENCE: Rev. L. Merrill Miller, D. D., Ogdensburg.

STEUBEN: Rev. William A. Niles, D. D., Hornellsville.

